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#### **NOT ACCORDING TO PLAN**

Special-needs students falling through the cracks force legal action and absurdly expensive solutions. By Brian Rinker

PAGE 8

#### **SUBTERRANEAN RUSH HOUR BLUES**

Behind the soundtrack to your commute. By SF Weekly Staff

**PAGE 13** 

**LETTERS** 

**SUCKA FREE CITY** 

NEWS Your Humble Narrator..... 10 13 COVER STORY 18 THE CALENDAR Event Listings . . . . . . . . . . . . . 19 27 ARTS & CULTURE Kill Your Television.....29 30 FILM Film Capsules ......31 32 EAT Recent Openings ......33 36 MUSIC Lost in the Night......38 Listings......39 Hear This . . . . . . . . . . . . 41 51 CLASSIFIED Savage Love . . . . . . . . . . . . 51

#### On the Cover:

Photograph by Mike Koozmin

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#### **BLOG COMMENT** OF THE WEEK

Buying a piece of S.F. history:

Janice Joplin rocked ["S.F. House Where Janis Joplin Hung Out Now Goes For \$1.3 Million, Does Not Include Mercedes-Benz" Ian S. Port, 12/12]! Considering it's California, and San Francisco — where real estate is off the charts anyway, I imagine the owners feel that they hit the mother lode buying this house so rich in history. Josie F.

One parent perfers raising her kids outside of S.F.: My first two  $kids \, were \, born \, and \, raised \, in \, S.F. \, until \,$ the ages of 2 and 6, then we moved to the East Bay and we had a third ["Here Comes the Stork: San Francisco Voted Best U.S. City to Have a Baby," Jonathan Ramos, 12/12]. I gotta say, this article is full of shit. Life is so much more comfortable now. I didn't realize how hard it was living in S.F. until we left.

Heather O.

Another parent raised her children in S.F. just fine: Well, once upon a time we raised three children in San Francisco. We walked to the local library, enrolled them in the preschool nursery school on Capp Street, and just plain enjoyed the entire city. It all seemed so normal. Ruth G.

Maybe S.F. doesn't have the most attractive people in the U.S.: I love S.F., but I don't think the people there are attractive in looks ["Aw Shucks: San Franciscans Voted Most Attractive People in America," Jonathan Ramos, 12/11]. Personality, sure. Looks, not so much. Most of them look like pale, granola hipsters, like the picture in the post. Did they not check Southern Cal-

Photo of the week from SFWEEKLY.COM/SLIDESHOW:



**Not So Silent Night** 

#### "I didn't realize how hard it was living in S.F. until we left."

HEATHER O. COMMENTING ON I"HERE COMES THE STORK: SAN FRANCISCO VOTED BEST U.S. CITY TO HAVE A BABY"

ifornia, Miami, or New York? I would think those people would be more attractive, or even in the Midwest. Those people like to stay fit! Jessica7485

Let the hoax not take away from the larger issue: This article seems to be its own self-fulfilling prophecy ["Google Bus: Max Bell Alper Is the Boy Who Cried Gentrification," Joe Eskenazi, 12/9, The Snitch]. This staged argument will only negate the positive aspects of the action if all media chooses, as SF Weekly has, to focus exclusively on the staged argument rather than the wider context of growing housing concerns in S.F. The fact too that this article goes beyond its snark and hyperbole to attempt to shame this person and suggest he be effectively shunned from "credible" communities/movements does more to convince me of the lack of credibility of the author of this piece than of any-

one to do with this event. Thank good-

ness other media sources have covered

this action in a more nuanced way. **ChristineB** 

Another reader weighs in: I'm not saying this guy is in the right at all, but I remember when I was a young activist still learning my chops and my lessons. I made some pretty embarrassing mistakes and was fortunate that the groups I was working with chose to react with support and education. They didn't shun me and I ended up becoming quite productive and helpful. Hopefully the same will happen with this hapless chap. In other words, maybe the writer should give him a break. If he has the balls to do what he did that morning, imagine what he could do with some patient guidance.

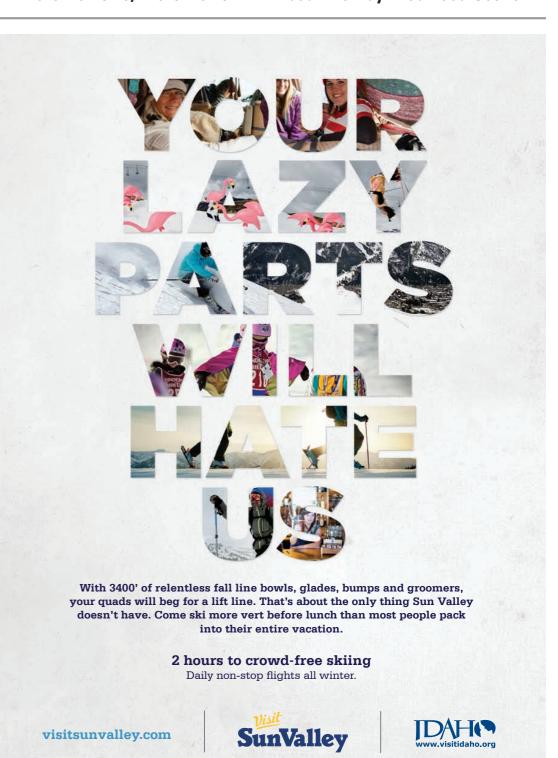
davidrentibbs

Popular fat Santa display doesn't **please everyone:** I agree with the Yelp reviewer in this post ["Santa the Hutt: Fat Joke Isn't Jolly," Marilyn Wann, The Exhibitionist, 12/9]. I guess I am really not hip enough to get this campaign either. Just seems mean-spirited and not well thought out by their marketing department. It rarely works well for a company to advertise their brand by putting down others. I love this Willendorf project. San Francisco has a very "acceptance" vibe — this seems very un-San Francisco to me!

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More Reviews, More News – All About the Bay Area Food Scene



# Jeremiah Was a Political Liability

#### Frog's legs are the next shark's fins.

By Rachel Swan

#### On a single block of Stockton

Street in San Francisco's Chinatown, no fewer than three markets sell bullfrogs. Continue wandering through the alleyways and you'll find scads more, piled in plastic tubs or hidden beneath goldfish aquariums. Signs in the windows say that all animals have to be killed on site, and a store clerk demonstrates how it's done: Smiling, he pantomimes an executionar's ax with his hand. "We cut the heads!"

From there, the frogs go to restaurant platters and dinner plates throughout the city — breaded, stewed, or thrown in soups, and occasionally fried. A staple of Asian cuisine, frogs simmer on many stoves in San Francisco, where Asian-Americans comprise roughly a third of the city's polyglot culture.

They also constitute a huge threat to the local environment, according to Michael Starkey, a staunch Oakland-based conservationist and adviser to the amphibian advocacy group, Save the Frogs! "These guys are ambush predators," Starkey says, noting that the breed commonly found in Chinatown eateries — the American bullfrog — will eat everything from bats to house sparrows to 33-inch garter snakes. Though native to the East

Coast, it's more commonly shipped from factory farms in Brazil or Taiwan, sometimes carrying a virulent, water-born fungus that coats its entire skin.

"With globalization," Starkey says, "people have transported this fungus all over the world." While innocuous to humans, the disease spreads rapidly among amphibians, and could drive many local species to extinction. For two-and-

a-half years, Starkey and other ecologists have campaigned for an embargo in California, hoping American bullfrogs will go the way of shark fins and foie gras. They've spoken in classrooms, delivered newsletters, and confronted politicians who see the frogs as an important cultural totem in San Francisco. When the California Department of Fish and Wildlife enacted a similar ban in 2010, it faced opposition from Assemblyman Paul Fong and Sen. Leland Yee, among others. Many of their constituents live in the neighbor-

hoods where frogs are sold and consumed.

"It was narrowly imposed on livefood markets, and it unfairly targeted the Asian-American community," a spokeswoman from Fong's office says, acknowledging that Fish and Wildlife repealed the rule after just a few months. She's unsure how Fong would react if a similar rule were introduced next year, but "it would have to be closely examined."

Undeterred, Starkey is circulating an online petition for yet another bullfrog fatwah. He hopes it will quietly plow through the Legislature and wind up on Gov. Jerry Brown's desk, where it has a good chance of getting signed — especially in light of this year's shark-fin ban. Frogs might be the next political battle in San Francisco, Starkey says. One if by land, two if by sea.

# Rebranding Miracle!

The most San Franciscan of Christmas trees.

#### A decade ago, the pope

— who ought to know such things — expounded on the symbolism of the Christmas tree.

Its evergreen, unchanging nature, per John Paul II, "exalts the value of life." Gifts beneath it epitomize "Christ, God's greatest gift to all men."

Well, that's what the Vatican's tree represents. San Francisco, however, hosts a different sort of flora.

Quasi-religious public installations could raise hackles here. But it'd take someone with a heart three sizes smaller than the Grinch's to bemoan City Hall's "World Tree of Hope." The 25-foot-tall conifer is bedecked with 12,000 origami cranes, a nod to Sadako Sasaki. She's the Hiroshima victim who set out to fold 1,000 cranes — and earn a wish — but expired on No. 644.

Just try objecting. But wait: Each crane carries wishes penned by luminaries ranging from Isabel Allende to President Obama and folded by volunteers including Hiroshima survivors, children, and prisoners serving life sentences at San Quentin.

David Arquette and Courtney Cox's crane, incidentally, wishes "love to all of those in search of it."

There is, certainly, a snide quip regarding this statement emanating from a divorced couple. But, in the spirit of the World Tree of Hope, it shall be left unmade. J.E.

## **Bundles** of Joy

City lobbyists eat fundraising rules for breakfast.

#### An invitation for breakfast

or a cocktail is always welcome. But less so when a contribution of \$250 is mandated to earn the title of "friend."

In San Francisco, however, affection is one more commodity to be bought and sold. That's certainly the case during fundraising events in which the breakfast, drinks, or

"friendship" are incidental to the fundraising.

Last month, San Francisco politicos were hit up for invitations to two such happenings, boosting the campaign war chests of incumbent supervisors Jane Kim and Norman Yee. Fundraising for re-election was described to SF Weekly as "gauche" by political insiders — but fundraising is not exactly a subtle art. Raising eyebrows, rather, was that the invitations were sent directly from lobbying firm Platinum Advisors and required an RSVP to a Platinum Advisers employee — who'll handle your check and seating arrangements.

Lobbyists' individual donations are capped at \$500 per candidate and must be reported to the Ethics Commission. But, via gatherings like those held for Kim and Yee, lobbyists can bundle vastly more cash and direct it to the candidate or committee of their choosing.

This, too, may qualify as gauche. But it's hardly illegal. In this city, lobbyists have free rein to hit up — or perhaps demand — friends, clients, and the world writ large for money, amass it in a big pile, and bestow it upon favored ends.

So long as it's reported. While that surprised even long-

time San Francisco politicos, it didn't startle good-government activist Charles Marsteller. He recalled one of the city's more powerful lobbyists long ago making a practice of randomly leaning on clients for \$500 checks made out to someone else, which would then be placed in envelopes and delivered to various candidates or committees. "And then that would be disclosed in her report," he says. "It's free speech. She was being honest about it. That's what it takes to do business in this town."

City ethics codes in fact allow leeway for bundling that makes a mockery of quaint fundraising prohibitions. City contractors, for example, are barred from making political contributions to the officials who decide upon their contracts — but can fundraise far and wide, bundle those offerings, and hand them to the same officials.

Rule changes proposed by Supervisor David Chiu and City Attorney Dennis Herrera wouldn't much alter lobbyists' lives. They could continue to extract and distribute funds but not without maintaining records of ephemera such as "copies of all invitations sent by the lobbyist for fundraising events."

That'll show 'em. Joe Eskenazi



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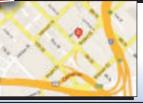
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# **Not According to Plan**

Special-needs students falling through the cracks force legal action and absurdly expensive solutions.

By Brian Rinker

#### **Donna McAllister arrived**

early to pick up her 10-year-old son, Lio, from elementary school just in time to see him bolt from his classroom and run down the hall crying. She followed and found Lio pressed against the elevator frame, trying to squeeze down as far as he could, clawing at the cracks where the doors meet the frame.

Lio has autism and suffers from severe anxiety attacks. When overwhelmed, he runs and hides, trying to find a place where he can shut out the world.

"Think fight or flight," says Donna. "His instinct is not to fight at all — it's to get away."

Previously, Lio managed his anxiety attacks at school by retreating to a "safe place," a quiet spot under a desk, with drapes for privacy and a rug. But when a newly hired special-education teacher dismantled Lio's safe space and moved it without telling anyone (testifying later he didn't realize the importance of that specific spot), the parents say Lio's meltdowns increased.

From January to March, the school documented more than a dozen outbursts. But the parents suspect even more.

The parents say they watched their child regress, both socially and academically. Lio was afraid to go to school. Stressed out, he wet the bed.

"At home he would say, 'I want to escape. I want to escape," says Patrick McAllister, Lio's father.

After three years of struggling with the San Francisco Unified School District on how to best provide Lio with an education, the McAllisters sued the district.

#### **Patrick McAllister personally**

served School Board President Rachel Norton with a subpoena at a board meeting. She raised her hands in the air as if he'd pointed a gun at her and refused to take it. Later, her lawyer told her that only worked in the movies. An administrative judge later squashed the subpoena.

The McAllisters accused the SFUSD of failing to provide Lio with a "free and appropriate public education," commonly called FAPE, a federal law requiring schools to offer all children a quality education. Under the law, eligible children who need extra support get specialized services outlined in legally binding agreements called In-



dividualized Education Programs, or IEPs. The McAllisters say Lio stopped receiving the support services agreed upon in his IEP.

"The more we asked questions about the IEP requirements not being met, the angrier they got with us," Patrick says. "We were branded as problem parents."

It got so bad, they say, during the third- and fourth-grade years, they pulled Lio out of Alamo Elementary School and placed him instead at The Laurel School, a \$27,500-a-year private school that focuses on children with special needs.

The McAllisters want reimbursement for the money spent on private school and proper placement in a school that can accommodate Lio's needs.

While due process is arguably the most effective tool parents can use to hold schools accountable, it is a costly, time-consuming, and emotionally draining method that many parents see as a last resort. The McAllisters' frustration with the district, the communication breakdown, and the contentious back-and-forth illustrate what parents of children with special needs often face. SFUSD sees it differently. For its legal team, it's cut and dry: The district met Lio's needs by providing him with the best education possible, so it shouldn't have to pay for a private-school education

when, according to the district, it wasn't necessary.

"Obviously, San Francisco believes it offered FAPE to this student or we wouldn't have gone to the hearing," says Damara Moore, an in-house lawyer for SFUSD.

In December, administrative Judge Susan Ruff ruled against the district and in favor of the McAllisters on one of the eight issues. The ruling says the district failed to offer an appropriate behavioral support plan for Lio and will have to reimburse the family for \$43,811 for the tuition of private school up to date. For the remainder of the school year, the McAllisters will pay \$12,375 out of pocket.

The school district refused to comment further about the specifics of the case, citing confidentiality.

The McAllister case is one of 15 requests for legal action filed with SFUSD during the 2012-2013 school years.

Statewide, about 79 percent of the 3,194 cases filed last school year with the California Department of Education were done so on behalf of a student seeking due process hearings. Parents of special-needs children take on the district hoping to get reimbursed for money spent on private schools, private evaluations, and diagnosis, and for hiring extra support for their kids like therapists, tutors, and aides. Not all of those cases will make

it to court. Many will be settled in mediation hearings beforehand.

But for those that do go all the way to court, the odds are stacked against them. The local school districts prevail about 63 percent of the time, with the student winning only 13 percent of the time, the rest being split decisions, according to 2012 stats. Communication breakdowns are often at the heart of special education disputes. Jargon, acronyms, convoluted laws, and bureaucracy all run rampant in the special-education world.

"You have to know how the system works," says San Francisco Board of Education President Rachel Norton. "And that's unfortunate. We're trying to change, parents shouldn't have to know the magic word."

At one point, Norton didn't know the magic word either. For years, frustrated with SFUSD, she sent her autistic daughter to private school. Norton's daughter recently returned to public school and finished her first year back at Washington High.

Special education is expensive business. Budgets are tight. Staffing is an issue. Other controversies have rocked the district in recent years. A state audit found hundreds of violations in the way SFUSD handled its special-education cases. And, most recently, the district was found to diagnose black children with behavioral problems at disproportionately

"Is every kid getting everything they need? No," says Norton, "but this is the world we live in. I challenge you to find any district that does."

Indeed: Problems with getting quality public special education are not unique to San Francisco.

In April, two parent-group associations filed a federal lawsuit against the California Department of Education, accusing them of failing to provide FAPE to children with disabilities at schools across the state. The groups want the Department of Education to enforce FAPE obligations at school districts, instead of just recording them and doing nothing.

Katy Franklin, chair of the Community Advisory Committee for special education in S.F., compared the Education Department's enforcement strategy to "batting the flies away instead of picking up the shit in the room."

The lawsuit alleges that school districts spend tens of thousands of dollars in lawyers' fees to fight parents. One district cited in the lawsuit spent \$80,000 in an unsuccessful attempt to avoid forking over \$4,500 to reimburse the parents for the costs of an independent education evaluation.

Districts usually have private law firms on retainer to litigate if the case goes to due process. The playing field for parents is usually unfair. In an NBC Investigative report, it was found that SFUSD spent \$460,000 in outside legal fees since 2010.

"A child's special education should not depend on the parents' ability to advocate for services," Franklin says.

#### The McAllisters spent much of their life savings fighting the district. They risked a lot.

"It makes me want to throw up," Donna says, thinking of all the money spent. "Sometimes when I'm writing a check to the bank, I think I'm going to pass out."

Now that the judged ruled favorably for the McAllisters, they should get compensated for the nearly hundred thousand dollars in attorney fees and tuition costs. But how much money they actually get is still undecided. Right now, the district and the family's lawyer are negotiating over the fees.

So the McAllisters haven't prevailed yet. The district can appeal the decision, drawing both parties back into another lengthy legal proceedings. The decision to appeal could depend on the amount of fees the family's attorney requests, which the McAllisters estimate to be more than the tuition costs.

For now, Lio will finish out his time at Laurel and then go back to public school. The district and the McAllisters will have to create a new education program, one with the proper behavioral support, and then place Lio in the right school. A task easier said than done.

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Hello humankindness

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# **Train of Thought**

#### A long-standing philosophical experiment is put to the test on the streets of the city.

#### One of your humble narra-

tor's earliest memories is of his mother flummoxing people friends, family, fellow shoppers in the checkout line — with a particularly visceral thought experiment: Suppose you were buried up to your neck in a pile of excrement. And then someone tosses a bucket of puke at you.

Would you duck?

It turns out the real reason for asking questions like this was to witness victims haplessly grasping for mitigating factors before choos-

ing a wretched option in a no-win scenario: How big is the bucket? Am I drunk? Is it human excrement? Is it mine?

In the end, friends, family, and fellow shoppers were left with just two choices: Do nothing and experience a horrible fate or do something and experience an arguably less horrible fate.

The Bucket and Pile Problem is not often overheard at universities and their neighboring supermarket checkout lines. But, for the past half-century, philosophers have been pondering a more dignified – if less entertaining thought experiment: the Trollev Problem.

Suppose you're at the wheel of an out-of-control trolley. You can't stop. You can't slow down. And, if you do nothing, you'll plow into five people dawdling on the rails. But, if you take action, you can shunt the trolley onto a side track

- and crush one person, who may or may not be acquainted with with the other fools having a party on the tracks.

Would you do it?

#### The Trolley Problem has blossomed

into one of the world's most ubiquitous thought experiments, and spawned countless arguments and counterarguments. While most people would, indeed, coolly divert a train onto a side track with a flip of a switch, dooming that single unfortunate soul, far fewer would physically shove a fat person into the way of an oncoming train in order to save five people standing on the rails. We have variant

feelings about allowing someone to be killed as opposed to killing them even if the end result is identical. As such, the subtitle of Thomas Cathcart's recent San Francisco-set book The Trolley Problem is Would You Throw the Fat Guy Off the Bridge?

Cathcart's tome is set in a San Francisco in which trolleys roll through California and Van Ness, and elected district attorneys see fit to prosecute for murder a woman hailed as a hero for diverting a train onto a less-populated track. In doing so, a

THE TROLLEY

**PROBLEM** 

Would You Throw the

Fat Guy Off the Bridge?

A PHILOSOPHICAL

CONUNDRUM

THOMAS CATHCART

Coauthor of the New York Times bestselling

Plats and a Platypus Walk into a Bar\_

hypothetical San Francisco jury (and

Cathcart's readers) are bludgeoned

with lengthy forays into the world-

views of Hume, Bentham, Kant, Ni-

etzsche, and even St. Thomas Aqui-

not mentioned; it'd be hard to find a

suitable rhyme for "utilitarianism.")

While the elements of human mo-

rality and even evolutionary biology

exposed by the Trolley Problem are

quickly breaks down as a vehicle for

advancing them. Far from highfalu-

tin notions of Bentham or Kant, the

idea of hurling an obese person off a

rail bridge is something out of Bugs

worth analyzing, the trolley itself

But that's not the real problem:

nas. (Johnnie Cochran's ideas are

Bunny or Rube Goldberg. A thought experiment can't hew strictly to reality — but, when it diverts too abruptly, it becomes impossible to offer nuanced and serious answers to increasingly nonsensical questions. Attempting to gauge your deepest values based upon whether you'd knowingly hurl a fat person to certain death beneath the wheels of a public transit vehicle — for the greater good — veers into the absurd.

There's just no way that a fat person, by dint of their girth, is going to

> save lives or prevent injury on public transit.

For most of us, in fact, scenarios about piloting public transit vehicles into larger or smaller groups of pedestrians are hopelessly abstract. But not for everyone.

For Muni drivers, these concepts are strikingly concrete.

#### **Talking to Muni**

drivers surrounded by passengers about their options regarding running over more or fewer passengers is a joy everyone should experience. In the end, your humble narrator reached out to more than a dozen current and former bus, trolley, train, and cable car drivers about how they would handle a realworld Trolley Problem.

It was an experience remarkably in line with decades-old memories

of supermarket checkout lines, as the drivers haplessly grasped for mitigating factors before choosing a wretched option in a no-win scenario. When asked to imagine he's navigating a bus through the city, one driver interrupted: "Electric or diesel?" Another calmly rattled off the methods of stopping a bus sans brakes: pull the handbrake; open its doors; engage the Hill Holder; or hydraulically lower the front of the vehicle. Adhering to the "Smith Driving System," we are told, would reduce the instances of being forced to crush people by swerving into larger or smaller crowds. Honking the horn when within 10 feet of a

person is de rigeur — which would require the hypothetical track loiterers to be disabled, hearing impaired, or both. Finally, says one 30-year driver, Muni would be loath to issue Trolley Problem-like policy statements, as "for liability reasons, they don't tell you anything about how you should kill this person as

The Snatch

for a lawsuit together

medical service that accepts the virtual currency Bitcoin. În a post

on the group's website, Abramson

stressed its commitment to pri-

vacy, and said that allowing the

helped insulate patients from a

"financial system that can't easily

be controlled." Meanwhile, Inter-

net Archive founder and Bitcoin

evangelist Brewster Kahle says

that when his organization of-

fered clients the opportunity to

union, the FBI objected. Yet just

the new currency. Besides pro-

moting alternative currency,

apps. Perhaps it was inevitable

open Bitcoin accounts in its credit

last week, Bank of America issued an analysis extolling the virtues of

Abramson also encourages people

to monitor their health via iPhone

that he would eventually dub him-

self Dr. Bitcoin, whose healthcare

plan just might put Obamacare

A TRITE CHRISTMAS

saturnalia featured hordes of

ing lumps of substances that

This weekend's yearly SantaCon

drunken, lascivious Kringles leav-

weren't exactly coal throughout

San Francisco. The city, however,

didn't exactly leave out milk and

ported event organizer was cited

at Duboce Park for failing to apply

legedly attempting to unload faux

snow from a pickup truck was fur-

ther cited for "illegal dumping." The organizers, however, aren't

jolly about this, and vow to initi-

ate a Santa vs. The Law battle in

the forthcoming months. Per the

for you at Duboce Park but the SF

and cited he and Mrs. Claus for an

un-permitted event and for litter-

fight the charges in court. ... Noth-

ing can stop the Red Tide." Other

ing (apparently snow is litter).

Rest assured Santa intends to

cities have given Santa a truly

hard time. But it took San Fran-

cisco to formally issue citations

and invoke the specter of court

proceedings. A red-nosed lawyer

may yet factor in to the situation.

blogs.sfweekly.com/thesnitch

For more news, go to

Park Police made SF Santa leave

SantaCon site: "Santa wishes there could have been more snow

for the proper permits. A man al-

cookies for the revelers. A pur-

out of business.

**DREAMING OF** 

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train driver. They hit people *a lot*."

#### Lectures on the nuances of a Hill

Holder or the finer points of the Smith Driving System are their own reward. But some of the underpinnings of what makes humans tick the point of thought experiments like the Trolley Problem — are also revealed by talking to Muni operators. Driver after driver recalled situations in which they or others could hit one stead, the driver slammed the brakes or swerved heavily, risking the lives and well-being of every last passenger on board, but sparing the sole wastrel who put everyone at risk. Why? "Because you just don't want to hit anyone. You just don't."

Whether it's for the greater good to plow into one person or, instead, put hundreds of other lives at risk is a thought experiment. But Muni drivers don't have time for thought experiments. Life moves too quickly.

#### It was eight years ago. It was a No.

14 bus. It was at Mission and Trumbull. And "it was a goddamn city vehicle driven by a goddamn city worker, of all people." The car swerved in front of the bus, and the Muni driver slammed on the brakes. Passengers flew through the air. But, amazingly,

"There was an extremely fat

opposed to that person." Also: "You should talk to a Cal-

person (or vehicle) who foolishly wandered into their path — but didn't. In-

no one was hurt.

woman standing in the front of the bus," recalls the Muni driver. "She wasn't very tall, but she must have been well north of 300 pounds; she was well-padded. And she broke everyone's fall." He pauses. "She was very large."

Your humble narrator stands corrected. Apparently a fat person, by dint of their girth, is going to save lives or prevent injury on public transit. The trick, it would seem, is putting them on the vehicles, and not beneath them.

Joe.Eskenazi@SFWeekly.com

## **Doing the Minimums**

#### The federal drug cops posted

to San Francisco don't have to go far to find the bad guys: They see them every day on the way into work. The local office of the Drug Enforcement Administration, on Golden Gate Avenue in Civic Center, is conveniently located smack dab in one of the largest open-air drug markets on the West Coast.

In other cities, posting the federal courthouse and the DEA agents on the front lines of the war they're supposed to be fighting might make a difference. Here, it does not. And how can it? This is the Tenderloin, after all. The word itself is loaded: Journalists use it whenever there's a crime, blight, or gentrification story to be done, tourists use it as a watchword for the place they've heard to avoid (and just where is it, exactly?), and the city's longer-term tourists, here for a few years in their 20s and 30s on their way to something else, use it as the symbol of all that's wrong and fucked up in their city of the moment — but, as they'll admit to themselves as they step over and

SFWEEKLY.COM

around the human wreckage and effluvia on their way for a banh mi or a whiskey cocktail or a fine Thai meal on Larkin Street, the TL is also kinda... cool.

The TL is also where anyone with a few grams of anything can go to make an almost-guaranteed sale. The assertion makes some liberals bristle, but drug cops know it: Commuting next to businessmen and social-media managers on the morning BART are drug dealers. Lots of them. This is real: During the four-day BART strikes in October and July, the drug markets were noticeably quieter, as the San Francisco Appeal reported last month.

It makes sense. Drug dealers are criminals, but they're not dumb. They're business people and, as they adapt to police procedure and addict behavior, innovators, even. But no need to innovate with the irresistible TL available. Only a fool would avoid the thousands of formerly homeless, formerly incarcerated, otherwise-vulnerable customers to sling their wares



somewhere less reliable and more dangerous. Where else would you expect them to go? It would be like Apple eschewing Palo Alto for its newest iPhone release launch in favor of... well, the Tenderloin.

For now, the U.S. Attorney wants at least some of them to go to federal prison for a year. In October, with embedded news cameras from ABC 7 rolling, the DEA and SFPD arrested 29 people — repeat drug dealers, some of whom had been selling drugs in the Tenderloin since the 1990s, one of whom had been arrested 50 times, police told the cameras. Last week, a

grand jury returned indictments on 11 of them: some as young as 21, one as old as 54, eight of them women, mostly black.

Why are the feds busting small-time street dealers? Because nothing else will work: San Francisco's much-vaunted drug courts and soft hands on criminal justice might keep the county jail population low and put Gov. Jerry Brown on the path to achieving a federal court order to empty out the prisons, but it's not keeping drug dealers off the streets. Far from it. Cops and dealers, many of whom are on a firstname basis, know it's a silly game.

Pick someone up, they'll be back out on the corner before too long.

Federal charges are different. There is no drug court, and federal law provides a one-year prison term as a mandatory minimum for slanging within 1,000 feet of a school — and with schools on Golden Gate Avenue, on Turk, on Eddy, and on Jones Street, that means most of the Tenderloin is a ticket to real prison. Operation Safe Schools, as U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag called the sweeps, is just a warning. Everyone who treats the Tenderloin as an open-air drug market should be on notice: Law enforcement is paying attention.

If this sounds familiar, it should. The new police chief, freshly arrived from Arizona, took one look at the Tenderloin and was horrified. He ordered sweeps; drug dealers were arrested. That was in 2009. The name of the operation: Operation Safe Schools. Save shutting down BART, this is the best drugenforcement strategy they've got.

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SHANE HOPE atomic\_kill\_threads, (detail) 2012, Archival pigment print, 48 x 72 in.

# DISSIDENIFUTURES

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# NiCK

Underground train stations, Fisherman's Wharf

#### The commuter was young.

He wore a red cap. He flashed a massive wad of bills. And he probably spent a considerable portion of his youth around the Nintendo Entertainment

That would make sense to Nick Albert. The 25-year-old accordion player's repertoire is essentially tunes from 1980s-era Nintendo games. And it seems the kids who amassed coins playing Super Mario Bros. have gone on to amass their fair share in the wider world. The young man in the red cap peeled off a \$100 bill and flicked it into the case of the accordionist squeezing out a Mario ditty.

He was long gone by the time Albert realized that he'd been tipped 100 times the going rate. It didn't earn him an extra life. It just paid for another day of this one.

Albert's life isn't so straightforward as those from the games he mines for material. Playing videogame music on a 70-year-old pawnshop accordion, in the subway, is not an end Albert achieved through meticulous planning.

He's only here because his hot dog

After years of toiling at minimumwage jobs, Albert socked away around \$3,000. That bought him a foothold in the sausage industry: "I wanted to start my own business. And that's pretty much the smallest scale you can do it." But even small scales come with big costs. Purveyors of dirtywater hot dogs, Albert learned, need to store their wares at commercial kitchens. There's the matter of permitting. There are costs associated with renting refrigerator space, freezer space, and space for your hot dog cart. And hot dogs? Those aren't as inexpensive as Albert thought they'd be. "The hot dog market," he reflects, "is not what you'd expect."

Not unlike most videogames, it ended very quickly for Albert. He chuckles at the memory of rapidly burning through his life savings. "You know, I wasn't really good at running a business."

So, he was back to working at someone else's. Deep-frying potatoes. Sweating in kitchens. And then he wasn't even doing that. The blue-pearl accordion he impulsively bought two years ago after hawking a guitar at a pawnshop has been his sole source of income this year. An epiphany that the music accompanying Mario's aquatic escapades "sounds like an old French waltz" provided him with his hook. He's only game-ready with eight



or nine songs: a couple from Mario, a couple from Zelda, and "other stuff that sounds good on an accordion" like "Greensleeves" or "Fur Elise." It's an exclusive playlist. "But most of them are crowd-pleasers."

Not every red-capped man will drop a C-note out of nostalgia for a videogame starring a red-capped man. But it's a rare day that Albert can't amass 10 bucks an hour. This, he surmises, is as good as he's ever done and as good as he can realistically do.

He grew up in Menlo Park and graduated from the elite Menlo-Atherton High School; notable alumni include Bob Weir, Lindsey Buckingham, and Stevie Nicks but Albert is, all but certainly, the school's first accordion-playing street musician. Life after high school hasn't gone according to plan; that would have required a plan. There were a litany of menial jobs, the hot dog escapade, nights staying in motels, nights crashing on couches, and, now, a house in the Outer Sunset subdivided into six rooms and shared with seven other guys. Rent is \$650, a figure likely to induce Mario-like nostalgia for many San Franciscans. One roommate works at a bakery, which is never a bad thing.

The money tossed in Albert's case goes toward keeping his room in that house. And yet, there are rewards greater than amassing coins in this game. Not long ago, an artist knocked out a caricature of the accordionist and presented it in lieu of a tip. This is an experience most \$10-an-hour workers do not share.

He's moved around a lot of late. He knows the picture is in a drawer. He just doesn't know where.

But, one of these days, he's gonna find it. And then he's gonna get it framed. Joe Eskenazi

## LARRY DRUMS

Market Street outside the Old Navy

#### Larry Hunt — the man

affectionately known as "Larry the Drummer" or "Larry Bucket Man" was not performing outside the Old Navy department store on Market Street last Monday afternoon. But all of his effects were there, piled haphazardly on a stack of milk crates, and strung together with cord. There were big unopened cans of tomatoes, and plastic recycling buckets, and a picture of actor Will Smith looking bright-eyed and mustachioed. A cardboard sign bore Hunt's plea to fans, penned in zigzaggy blue marker.

"SF/City is banning Bucketman New Generation Band," the sign said. "Got \$460.00 ticket for playing. Please help. I play in movie Pursuit Happyness Will Smith." Hunt left his phone number at the bottom, along with an apparently defunct website: LarryBucketman.com.

At 55, Hunt is warm and weathered. He has a wide, crinkly grin and a voice made chalkier by years of eating fire during his performances. He says he first tried eating fire in 1979, after a man in a redneck country bar bet a thousand dollars he couldn't do it. "I was drinking 151 Bacardi straight," Hunt recalls. "I didn't feel any pain until the next day." When he woke up, his mouth was caked in thick, papery sheets. "Like you know how those snakes be shedding their

skin," he says. "But I had a thousand dollars, plus \$360 for the gig, plus \$200 in tips." To top it all off, he had a new trick in his arsenal.

It was certainly an improvement for someone who lived off whatever money got thrown in his can. Raised in Kansas, Hunt taught himself to play drums at age 3 by listening to Gene Krupa and Buddy Rich records. His father ran a shoe shine shop and dry-cleaning business; his grandmother helped mind the store. He has two brothers, one who became a minister, the other a parking attendant. His adopted sister, Juliette Williamson, played bass in the Chicago Brother and Sister Blues Band until the band's singer, Bruce Brooks, bashed her skull in with a hammer and dumped her body by the Hunters Point shipyard.

Hunt says he never knew his mother. "She left when I was born," he says. "My daddy raised me."

After honing his chops in bar bands and gun-for-hire blues gigs, Hunt took a circuitous path to the Bay Area, stopping first in Georgia to play with the Drifters, he says, then picking up work with Oakland guitarist Ronnie Stuart and his Caravan of All Stars band. Hunt wound up penniless in Berkeley in 1983 and began playing drums on the Cal campus, sleeping in frat houses and student co-op basements, and earning just enough to squeak by. Alumni who attended UC Berkeley during his long tenure remember endless performances of "Black Cat," the bristly Janet Jackson rock song that Hunt was evidently trying to perfect. Singing the guitar part at full volume, Hunt made enough noise to drown out the incessant drum circles in the courtvard below.

Administrators in Sproul Hall were not amused. Hunt says that at some point in the '90s, after settling stacks of tickets and noise complaints, he got "driven out of Berkeley," and

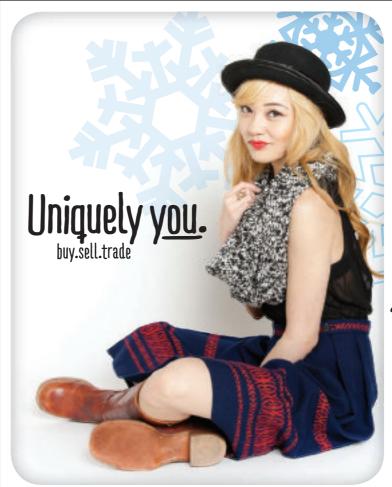
had to set up shop permanently in downtown San Francisco. But over the years, he became a much better musician. On a good day, he might play nine hours and pull up to \$60, enough to supplement his Social Security check and pay for an SRO room in the Tenderloin. He plays a full repertoire of funk and rock songs, usually accompanied by an electric bassist and a tap dancer who can't be relied upon, Hunt says, owing to "relationship problems." ("But when you're whooped," he says, "you're whooped.") Hunt keeps a picture of Will Smith on his bass drum and hangs a stuffed green dinosaur below his ride cymbal, like an oversized ornament. He hands out photographs of himself and Smith — apparently taken after Hunt's Pursuit of Happyness street cameo — to young women who pass by.

"See?" he says, waving a stick for emphasis, and grinning wide enough to reveal a piratical gap tooth. "Now you know who I am.

Hunt has until Christmas to pay a \$115 chunk of his \$460 citation, or face a 90-day jail sentence. "When I get done with this, I'm suing them for harassment," he grumbles. "They do this to me every year. And I still have to go out there every day to earn enough to pay my phone bill.'

By Thursday night, his stack of milk crates hadn't moved; its paper sign and cord wrapping remained unmolested. Hunt and his bassist were playing an upbeat rendition of the O'Jays' "For the Love of Money" — a song that carried its own hint of irony for anyone who'd read Hunt's heartfelt plea. The tap dancer was shuffling his heels on a square of plywood, and the crackle of Hunt's cymbal was just loud enough to get a homeless woman dancing at the Market and Fourth Street intersection. Passersby threw dollars into a plastic tip jar by the drum set. Things were looking up. Rachel Swan







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## CRAIG VENTRESCO

Montgomery BART Station

Craig Ventresco and his gui-

tar are a matching set. He's a slightly disheveled 46-year-old in a loose-fitting fleece with the floppy brown hair and overall rumpled appearance of Tom Baker's 1970s-era Doctor Who. His instrument is dark and worn like the Boston Gardens' old parquet floor; the strings erupt out of the headstock, recalling the Guinness Book of World Records photo of the gent with the spiraling fingernails.

They both look as if they've seen better days.

And perhaps that's so. But it's not about the looks. Ventresco perches on a tiny stool at Montgomery Station and begins to play. And it would be immediately apparent, even to his idol Blind Blake, that something special is happening here. Forget looks - Ventresco is a master; that's him strumming the guitar on the soundtrack to the 1994 movie Crumb. Among connoisseurs of old-timey music, this is an achievement akin to playing Woodstock.

And that gnarled old guitar? It's one of several instruments lavished

upon him by a ragtime-obsessed Daddy Warbucks who saw him playing a gig and, in short order, dropped tens of thousands of dollars in pricey music shops on Ventresco's behalf. At one point, the hedge-fund baron summoned Ventresco to his home and commanded him to "play me something from 1902." Fair enough.

An envelope containing \$800 was tossed across the desk.

Back in the underground, a handful of coins — heavy on the pennies — is tossed into Ventresco's case, an impromptu reward for strumming a tune of the sort that might induce Groucho Marx to dance with Thelma Todd. The guitarist glances up, and grins. A fellow street musician has emptied the contents of his pants pockets into Ventresco's kitty. "You should hold onto this, man," the guitarist tells his admirer. But the transaction goes through.

It's an odd moment in an odd career. After 15 years of daily busking and 10 years of doing anything but, Ventresco is out on the streets again because he needs the money. And yet,



he refuses to comport himself in a way that will earn him much.

"I guess there's something wrong with me," he says. Then he smiles. And then he plays another 110-yearold tune you've never heard before and never will again.

The Internet has been a mixed blessing for Ventresco. For collectors of century-old 78 rpm records and

even older phonograph cylinders, the World Wide Web has eliminated the need to wander into strange and potentially dangerous people's basements and record their vintage music. So, that's good.

On the other hand, San Francisco's voracious, tech-fueled booms have driven the cost of living into the stratosphere. For those

whose chosen profession is collecting and performing obscure tunes appealing to an exceptionally select audience, this bodes poorly — and ensures your fellow esoteric musician pals leave town and don't come back. So, that's bad.

Also, the rise of the Internet has made it damn near impossible to find good deals on records and cylinders



# JORDAN

Powell Street, Fisherman's

#### Close your eyes in the vicinity

of the Powell Street cable car turnaround or Fisherman's Wharf, and you'll hear a full band, playing away. Open them, though, and you'll see Jordan Wilson, twitching away.

Wilson's series of subtle, twitchy movements reveal that he's playing as many as four instruments at once. He built his first musical apparatus straight out of high school, a hodgepodge of drums and guitar that straps to his back — reminiscent of Dick Van Dyke's one-man band in Mary Poppins.

Wilson says he started building one-man-band machines out of a "lack of social skills and a natural skill for music."

"Musicians can just be way too cool sometimes," he says of his need to play every instrument himself, simultaneously. Despite the difficulty of their task, Wilson says it was harder to put together a band than it was to just figure it all out alone.

His second apparatus, built when he was 20 years old, is nicknamed The Squid. A pedal board lets him

play drums with his feet. "I play bass guitar with my thumb," he says. "The neck is flipped upside-down, next to the guitar neck." The Squid also incorporates a keyboard, and Wilson sings.

Playing four instruments and singing at the same time seems damn near impossible — until you've seen Wilson do it. "People think it's so impressive, what I do," he says. "As far as the big machine goes, nobody's seen it before. ... But if you're playing guitar, you're not just doing one thing. You have to move your elbow, your shoulder, all the different positions with your fingers, timing, all of that." The Squid, he explains, is "like a more complicated guitar part."

This May, after several Union Square businesses complained about performance volumes, the Board of Supervisors passed new legislation making it easier to cite street performers in the area for noise ordinance violations. Wilson's act uses drums and amplification, two things singled out by the board. "I use a 15watt amplifier so you can hear the guitars and vocals," Wilson says. "It's probably better for them in the buildings if they can hear all the music, not just the drums."

Wilson was cited under the new ordinance, but was able to get his fine reduced in court. After receiving the ticket, he moved his performance to Fisherman's Wharf. There, the Port

of San Francisco issues permits that restrict the decibel level and length of street performances, and performers like Wilson don't have to worry about being ticketed — unless they play without a permit. However, after the initial furor over the board's legislation, Wilson says enforcement dropped off in the Union Square area and he was able to return.

"There's street performers, and we're gonna be out there regardless of whatever law they try to enforce," Wilson says. "We're gonna be out there, and we're gonna be using amplification. The businesses are gonna be there, regardless of us being there or not. Unless we sit down together and talk about it, and maybe make some permit system like they have on the Wharf — the only way to have peace of mind is to communicate."

He says some street performers have discussed suing the city over the legislation, which they say violates their First Amendment rights to free

"I certainly can't successfully do my act out there without amplification," Wilson says. "If we can sit down and create a system together and work on it not as enemies but as companions, Market Street is going to have a lot of cool acts. If this city is welcoming to street performers and supports them, you're going to see a lot of stuff on the street that you would see in a theater."

Kate Conger

at the garage sales of strange and potentially dangerous people who empty out their basements. (Ventresco would like you to know that, if you've got any of these laying around, he's interested. Listening to these old recordings "is what makes me go.")

And yet, Ventresco now feels safe enough to play on the streets again — after foreswearing the practice a decade ago following a pelting with soda cans — largely because of the city's aforementioned techdriven gentrification and the accompanying increased police presence along the Market Street corridor.

As the city's tides continually turn, Ventresco, it seems, is carried along for the ride.

The musician and his music grow older. The city grows younger and richer. Every day hundreds more affluent young techies who've never heard Joseph Francis Lamb's "Cleopatra Rag" wander past the rumpled guitarist in the corner. And, even though he's dutifully playing that old ditty, they still haven't heard it because they're not listening.

The guitarist shakes his head. If he whittled his playlist down from thousands of ancient unknown songs to a dozen or so standards (or just played "All of Me" ad nauseum) — well, that could be lucrative. Ventresco knows a musician who camped out at the cable car turnaround and did just that; it was a rare day he didn't pocket damn near \$300. Even junkie musicians — and, God knows, there was no shortage of them — did what they had to do to earn the cash to get their daily fix.

Ventresco's only addiction, it would seem, is to esoteric music. He can't make himself not play it. If he's not improving every day, if he's not playing the music he thinks is authentic, then why bother? "I don't want to be sitting out here not doing anybody any good. I don't want to be a beggar," he says. "I don't want sympathy money."

And, on this day, he doesn't get any. In fact, he doesn't get much at all. It's a dank and chilly afternoon, and commuters decked out in their once-a-year parkas waddle to and fro. They bury their hands in their pockets. And keep them there.

But it's not about the looks. If you close your eyes and lose yourself in the rollicking chords of "Cleopatra Rag," it may as well be a century ago. It may as well be sunny and warm. And, if only for a few fleeting moments, the world slows down and worries temporarily cease.

"Ī'm so happy music like this exists, and I get to play it," says Ventresco. "It really is my whole life." **J.E.** 

# KENNY CHUNG

GUITAR, HARMONICA Underground train stations

# ERIC FOURNIER

Underground train stations



#### Kenny Chung used to have

terrible stage fright. It started in fifth grade: He was cast in Schoolhouse Rock! as The Bill. "I'm just a bill, sitting on Capitol Hill," he sings as a reminder. On opening night, he forgot all the words and just froze, staring out at the audience.

"Someone pulled me off and they played the fucking song over the speakers," he remembers, "After that, I had horrible stage fright, horrible anxiety when it came to just talking in front of people."

But now here he is, with a steel guitar and a fistful of harmonicas, playing covers — and some original songs, too — in the Montgomery BART station, and making a living at it. His secret to conquering his anxiety? He just closes his eyes.

Across the station is Eric Fournier, another young man with an acoustic guitar. Like Chung, he says he's earning his living through busking. It's no hobby; it's his day job. He plays in the station five days a week. He's even got regulars; there's a man who often stops by to listen after picking his daughter up from daycare.

"I remember when she was so small she couldn't even walk; she was a baby when I first started busking," Fournier says. "Every time I see him, he always waits with her in the stroller. Now she's getting so big, she walks around and jams and stuff. He always stops, and he always tips me."

Across the station, Chung launches back into one of his money-making covers, a rendition of "The Weight" by Bob Dylan. He admits that he sometimes drags a song out as long as possible: "I kind of feel like a dick to the attendants, because for my songs that will bring in money, I'll repeat verses. I'll drag on that song for another two minutes!" Earlier, someone tipped Fournier with a book about Bob Dylan, but he says Dylan isn't really a role model for him.

As Fournier and Chung play on opposite sides of the station, within earshot of each other, it seems like they're each other's competition. But the two get along just fine. Fournier even tipped Chung off to his favorite spot in the station, a corner that has the entrance on one side and the Muni ticket machines on the other. With commuters rushing down the stairs on his left and lining up to buy tickets on his right, it's the perfect spot to win tips. Whoever arrives first gets to play there.

On his way out of the station, Fournier tips Chung a dollar and says, "Bye, buddy." Chung will stick around for a little while longer — he's trying to save up enough money for a minivan, so he can take his act on

But the mark of a good day isn't necessarily a large tip — although that certainly helps. "Occasionally, I'll get a couple that listens," Chung says. "Occasionally, I'll get a small crowd. And then sometimes — sometimes — they dance." K.C.

## MOTHERLESS **DAUGHTERS**

Safe, successful, on-going groups for Motherless Daughters are offered in San Francisco & San Anselmo for women who have lost their mothers through death, illness, separation, or estrangement in childhood, adolescence, or adulthood. In a warm, supportive group, women address relevant issues in their lives, current and past, gain acknowledgement, deepen self-empowerment, with opportunities for healing and growth.



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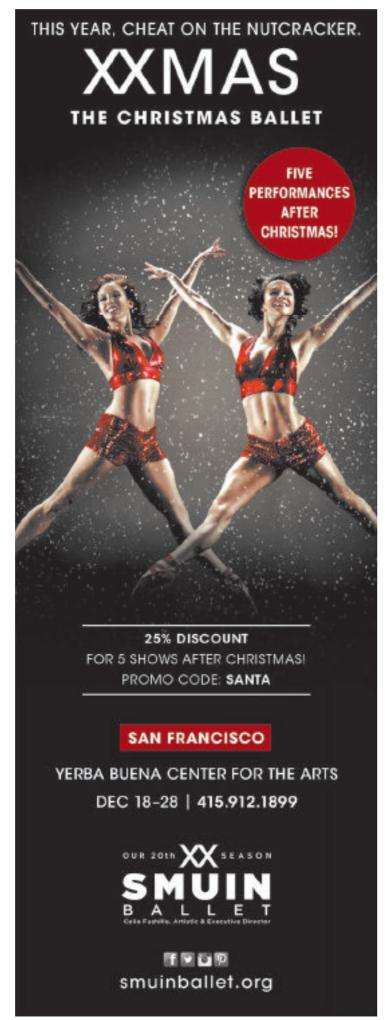
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# THE CALENDAR

WEEK OF DECEMBER 19-25, 2013 SFWEEKLY.COM/CALENDAR







#### SAT 12/21 Dance

#### **DARK TO LIGHT**

Late December: The longest night of the year approaches, and with it the irresistible propensity to bundle up and hunker down with streaming videos and ample carbohydrates until the darkness and the cold have passed. For those desiring a more active approach with a little swoop, lift, and angular momentum thrown in, UpSwing Aerial Dance & Company bring music and choreography by Cherie Carson on bungee cords, aerial harnesses, trapezes, and silks for its third annual Winter Solstice Performance. Carson has 26 years of experience making dances for roller blades, stilts, and aerial apparatuses in places as diverse as swimming pools and planetariums. A solstice-themed visual art installation by Alissa Kaplan Soto will accompany the performance. Experience velocity and weightlessness, vertiginous drops and dizzying spins to mark the miracle of orbit and another year's pivot from darkness into light.

UpSwing Aerial Dance & Company presents Winter Solstice Performance at 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Studio 12, 2525 Eighth Street, Berkeley. Tickets are \$10-\$25; visit upswingaerialdance.org. Irene Hsiao

SUN 12/22 Circus

#### **CLOWNERY**

That gigantic Cirque du Soleil tent behind AT&T Park might be an international symbol for impressive acrobatics, but readers who prefer their circus a bit more local (and a lot more personal) should head to Mittens and Mistletoe: A Winter Circus Cabaret. Entering its fourth year now, Mittens is a delightful melange of holiday-themed circus and variety entertainment. It's produced by Sweet Can Productions, which was awarded Best Circus Theater in our annual Best of San Francisco edition. On stage this time around are aerial, clown, and hip-hop hula hoop antics from Sweet Can veterans Kerri Kresinski, Jamie Coventry, and Natasha Kaluza, as well as some brand-new acts from members of local outfits like Circus Bella and The Vespertine Circus. Joan Mankin, of the legendary Pickle Family Circus, will host, resurrecting her character Queenie Moon for the occasion. Consume your Christmas circus in a big, loud tent, or a cozy theater with Mistletoe. It's your call.

Mittens and Mistletoe: A Winter Circus Cabaret starts at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at Dance Mission, 3316 24th St., S.F. Tickets are \$15-\$60; call 826-4441 or visit sweetcanproductions.com. Devin Holt

#### WED 12/25 Comedy

#### **YE FAITHFUL**

It's the age-old question: What are Jews supposed to do on Christmas? And furthermore: What is fun that anyone can do on Christmas? Whether you're looking for an open restaurant or just trying to get out of listening to your weird uncle talk about how much better the Haight used to be, Kung Pao Kosher Comedy is an entertaining and hilarious choice for Christmas evening. The show guarantees a good time, with comics from across the country delivering hot and spicy comedy alongside a seven-course Chinese feast (during the dinner show), or dim sum and drinks (during the cocktail show). There aren't many events to pick from on Christmas, but fortunately Kung Pao Kosher Comedy is a fantastic option, no matter what time of year. Every show supplies delicious fortune cookies concealing a little Yiddish

Kung Pao Kosher Comedy plays Dec. 24 through Dec. 26 at 6 p.m. for a seven-course Chinese banquet and 9:30 p.m. for cocktails and vegetarian dim sum at the New Asia Restaurant, 772 Pacific Ave, S.F. Tickets are \$44-\$64; call (925) 855-1986 or visit koshercomedy.com.

Laura Jaye Cramer

#### THE CALENDAR

#### LISTINGS

Calendar listings are offered as a free service to SF Weekly readers and are subject to space restrictions. To have a listing added, contact Clubs and Calendar Editor John Graham by e-mail (Calendar@sfweekly.com), fax (777-1839), or mail (225 Bush St. 17th Floor, S.F., CA 94104). To change an existing listing call 536-8147. Deadline is noon Tuesday for the following week's issue. Listings rotate regularly, as space allows. Our completel listings of local events searchable by keyword, date, and genre – are available online.

#### **ART - GALLERIES**

- 4x5 Gallery. San Francisco Found: Mid-century views of miscellaneous S.F. locations by amateur photographers unknown. Through Jan. 12, 2014. 442 Haight St., S.F., www.4x5gallerysf.com
- Adobe Books. Anonymously Altered Books: Exhibit/ sale of over 120 books that have been transformed into artworks to benefit Adobe Books' operating expenses. Through Dec. 31. 3130 24th St., S.F., 864-3936.
- Arc Studios & Gallery. Choice: Juried group show featuring over 30 female artists interpreting Roe v. Wade and the concept of reproductive rights. Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays. Continues through Jan. 12. Free. 1246 Folsom, S.F., 298-7969,

#### THU 12/19 Literature

## **CONVERSATION OF POETRY**

Jack Hirschman made an indelible

mark on San Francisco's literary landscape long before he served as the city's poet laureate from 2006-09, and he continues to have a profound impact on the local literary landscape. One of his contributions, the Thursdays at Readers series, presents two poets every week. This week's installment features San Francisco's sixth poet laureate, Alejandro Murguía, alongside Jose Hector Cadena, who co-curates the Voz Sin Tinta series held monthly at Alley Cat Books. Murguía, who put himself through San Francisco State's MFA program by driving the N-Judah at night, has won an American Book Award for each of his two short story collections -"Southern Front" (1990) and "This War Called Love" (2002). Although they're from different generations, both of the poets are personable and write in a variety of styles; it should be a good pairing for the intimate setting, which often feels like a conversation and concludes with a walk to North Beach and a few drinks at Specs'.

Thursdays at Readers starts at 6:30 p.m. at Readers Bookstore, Fort Mason Building C, Fort Mason Center, S.F. Free; call 771-1076 or visit friendssfpl.org. Evan Karp

Bash Contemporary. Fantasy Faire: Group show of fantastical paintings by Sandra Yagi, Graham Curran, Larkin Cypher, and Alexandra Manukyan. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Dec. 21. 210 Golden Gate Avenue, S.F., 926-8573, www. bashcontemporary.com.

www.arc-sf.com.

- Bavview/Anna E. Walden Branch Library. Bavview's Historical Footprints: Redux!: Historical photography exhibit and stories by Bayview/Hunters Point elders. Daily. 5075 Third St., S.F., 355-5757, www.sfpl.org.
- Blackball Universe Gallery. Urban Outskirts: City landscapes painted by Seren Moran, Lorna Strotz. and Lauren Scherf-Srivastava, Saturdays, Sundays, Continues through Dec. 29, 230 Madison St., Oakland, 510-433-0933, www.blackballuniverse.com.
- Center for Sex & Culture. Safe Sex Bang: The Buzz Bense Collection of Safe Sex Posters: Exhibition of sex-positive posters from 1982 onward. Through Jan. 31, 2014. Free. 1349 Mission, S.F., 902-2071, www.sexandculture.org.

- City Hall. Twisted Sisters: Reimagining Urban Portraiture: Group show featuring five photographers from San Francisco and 10 from Zurich, S.F.'s sister city in Switzerland. Through Jan. 31, 2014. sfartscommission.org. 1 Drive Carlton B. Goodlett, S.F., 554-5184, www.sfgov.org.
- Dolby Chadwick Gallery. Hello, Goodbye: 15-artist group show inspired by the concept of impermanence. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Feb. 1. 210 Post, S.F., 956-3560, www.dolbychadwickgallery.com.
- Ever Gold Gallery. Jeremiah Jenkins: Survival Guide: Artistic how-to instructions for remaining among the living, demonstrated through photos, mixed-media. video, and performance. Wednesdays-Saturdays, Continues through Jan. 4, 441 O'Farrell, S.F., 796-3676, www.evergoldgallerv.com.
- Fifty24SF Gallery. Playground Legends: Holiday group show featuring prints by Estevan Oriol. Herbert Baglione, Jeremy Fish, Mars-1, Munk One, Sam Flores, and more. Wednesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Jan. 19. 252 Fillmore, S.F., 252-

- 9144, www.fifty24sf.com.
- Fraenkel Gallery. Diane Arbus 1971-1956: Photography retrospective that starts with the artist's death and travels backwards to find her creative origins. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Dec. 28. 49 Geary, S.F., 981-2661, www.fraenkelgallery.com.
- Galeria de la Raza. Katie Dorame: Sifting Screens: New paintings combining Hollywood iconography with artifacts and images from North American native cultures. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Dec. 21. 2857 24th St., S.F., 826-8009, www.galeriadelaraza.org.
- Gallery 16. Futurefarmers: Taking Stock: Two-decade retrospective of objets d'art from the Bay Area collective, Tuesdays-Saturdays, Continues through Dec. 31, 501 Third St., S.F., 626-7495, www.gallerv16.com,
- Gallery Paule Anglim. Solid Concept VI: Bay Area Conceptual Artists: Featuring work by Terry Fox, David Ireland, Paul Kos, Tony Labat, Tom Marioni, John Roloff, and Al Wong. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Dec. 21. 14 Geary, S.F., 433-2710, www.gallerypauleanglim.com.

- Gauntlet Gallery. Sex, Drugs, Money, and Guns: Gauntlet's first anniversary group show featuring over 30 artists. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Jan. 18. 1040 Larkin St., S.F., 590-2303, www.gauntletgallery.com.
- Glass Door Gallery. Winter Hours: Featuring work by Nancy Calef, Ronald Chase, Carl Heyward, Joan Stennick, and John Zaklikowski. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Jan. 5. 245 Columbus Ave., S.F., 500-2271, www.glassdoorgallery.com.
- Jenkins Johnson Gallery. Seven Sisters: Group show featuring Carrie Mae Weems, Mickalene Thomas, Rina Baneriee, Patricia Piccinini, Camille Rose Garcia, Kenvatta A.C. Hinkle, Tovin Odutola, and Vanessa Prager, Tuesdays-Saturdays, Continues through Dec. 21, 464 Sutter, S.F., 677-0770, www. ienkinsiohnsongallerv.com.
- The Luggage Store. Flo Oy Wong: The Whole Pie: 75th birthday retrospective of the Oakland artist. Wednesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Dec. 28. 1007 Market, S.F., 255-5971, www.luggagestoregallery.org.



Main Library, Jewett Gallery. A Little Piece of Mexico: Postcards of Guillermo Kahlo and His Contemporaries: Vibrant historical views of early 20th century Mexico, culled from the private collection of local poet Alejandro Murguía. Through Dec. 29. free. 100 Larkin, S.F., 557-4277, www.sfpl.org.

Main Library, Skylight Gallery. Breaking the Barriers: The American Tennis Association & Black Tennis Pioneers: Historical overview of African-American tennis legends (e.g., Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe) featuring photos, newspaper accounts, and video. Through Jan. 5, 2014. Free, 100 Larkin, S.F., 557-4277, www.sfpl.org.

Meridian Gallery. By Mainly Unexpected Means: Large group show featuring artists from Palo Alto's Cubberley Studios, Tuesdays-Saturdays, Continues through Dec. 21, 535 Powell, S.F., 398-7229, www. meridiangallery.org.

Modern Eden. Wanderlust: Internationally themed group show featuring "travel-sized" works by more than 50 artists. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Jan. 3. Redd Walitzki: Vergissmeinnicht (Forget Me Not): Ethereal and fairvlike female portrait paintings. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Jan. 3. 403 Francisco, S.F., 956-3303, www. moderneden.com.

Modernbook Gallery. Brigitte Carnochan: Natural Beauty: New platinum/palladium photographs. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through March 1. 49 Geary, S.F., 732-0300, www.modernbook.com.

Modernism. Autour du Désir (All About Desire): Group show including work by Erwin Blumenfeld, Lucien Cleraue, R. Crumb, Sheldon Greenberg. Man Ray, Robert Stivers, Bruce Wolfe, and more. Tuesdays-Saturdays, Continues through Dec. 21, 685 Market, S.F., 541-0461, www.modernisminc.com.

Patricia Sweetow Gallery, Jamie Vasta: Femme: Glitter portraits of burlesque and drag performers. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Dec. 21. Free. 77 Geary, S.F., 788-5126, www.patriciasweetowgallery.com.

RayKo Photo Center. Crafted at RayKo: Group show spotlighting works by Kirk Crippens, Taichi Gondaira, Atsuko Morita, Ryuten Paul Rosenblum, Henry Walker, and other in-house artists. Tues

#### THU 12/19 **Textile Exhibit**

#### **MATERIAL WORLD**

Intersections 6: fiber/DIMENSIONS and Beyond  ${\it features}\,{\it more}\,{\it than}\,40$ artists from around the world working in different fiber mediums, including felting, papermaking, printing, weaving, welding, and woodworking. The exhibit includes metal floral-like works from Regula Allenspach Weill, elegant sculptures from Giselle Kappus, color-blocked hanging linens from Marja McAuley, and graphic pieces from Jennifer Kim Sohn. With more than 20 years of experience, fiber/DIMENSIONS, a collective that highlights original fiber art through curation, discussion, and demonstration, continues to feature creative new design and excellent craftsmanship in its biannual Intersections events. Enjoy the opening reception or stop by the beautiful Presidio location during the day for the rest of the exhibit's run.

Intersections 6: fiber/DIMENSIONS and Beyond continues through Jan. 12 at the Herbst International Exhibition Hall, 385 Moraga Avenue, in the Presidio, S.F. Admission is free; visit fiberdimensions.com. Laura Jaye Cramer

days-Sundays. Continues through Jan. 10. McNair Evans: Confessions for a Son: A photographic tour of emotional and psychological landscapes experienced in the wake of the artist's late father. Tuesdays-Sundays, Continues through Jan. 5. Rachael Jablo: My Days of Losing Words: Photographic still lifes and self-portraits illustrate the artist's struggle with incapacitating chronic migraine. Tuesdays-Sundays. Continues through Jan. 5. 428 Third St., S.F., 495-3773, www.raykophoto.com.

Robert Koch Gallery. János Szász: High-contrast B&W photographs of Soviet-era Hungary from the 1950s-'70s. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Dec. 21. 49 Geary, S.F., 421-0122, www. kochgallery.com.

Robert Tat Gallery. All About the Image: Group photography show. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Feb. 22. 49 Geary, Ste. 410, S.F., 781-1122, www.roberttat.com.

**San Francisco Arts Commission Window Installation** Site. Sabine Reckewell: Dual Inclinations: Geometrical sculptures made from stretched ribbons. Through Jan. 4, 2014. 155 Grove, S.F., 554-6080, www.sfartscommission.org.

SFMOMA Artists Gallery (Fort Mason, Bldg. A). Amanda Boe: What I Hold Dear: Digital chromogenic photo prints. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Dec. 20. Robert Katsusuke Ogata: Splice: Large-scale paintings made with chalk, gesso, polymer, and paintstick. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Dec. 20. 2 Marina Boulevard, S.F., 441-4777, www.sfmoma.org.

Shooting Gallery. Ferris Plock: New works by the S.F. painter. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Jan. 4. 886 Geary St., S.F., 931-1500, www.shootinggallerysf.com.

SOMArts Cultural Center, All Good Things...: Ephemeral group show featuring photography, video, sculpture, installations, time-based art, and other impermanent creations. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Dec. 21. 934 Brannan, S.F., 863-1414, www.somarts.org.

Southern Exposure. Sandra Ono: Engrams: A biomorphic, site-specific installation made from melted plastic sandwich bags. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. 3030 20th St., S.F., 863-2141, www.soex.org.

Spoke Art Gallery. The Moleskine Project: Group show. Tuesdays-Saturdays, Continues through Dec. 21, 816 Sutter, S.F., www.spoke-art.com.

UCSF Women's Health Center. Serenity: Visions: A five-floor exhibit featuring serene artworks by Kit Cameron, Blazin, Tama Greenberg, Judith Juntura Miller, and Helen S. Cohen to promote the healing power of art. Mondays-Fridays. Continues through Jan. 14. 2356 Sutter St., S.F., 353-2293, www.ucsfhealth.org.

White Walls Gallery. L'Avenir: Graffuturism group show curated by Poesia. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Continues through Jan. 4. 886 Geary St., S.F., 931-1500, www. whitewallssf.com.

#### **COMEDY**

21st Annual Kung Pao Kosher Comedy: Jewish **Comedy on Christmas in a Chinese Restaurant:** Lisa Geduldig hosts her yearly series of Jesus-free dinner parties with quest comedians Gary Gulman, Adrianne Tolsch, and Samson Koletkar. Dec. 24-26, 6 & 9:30 p.m., \$44-\$64, koshercomedy.com. New Asia Restaurant, 772 Pacific Ave., S.F., 391-6666.

A Very Merry Murder Mystery: A holiday whodunit by the improvisers from Bay Area Theatresports. Fridays, Saturdays. Continues through Dec. 21, \$17-\$20, improv.org. Bayfront Theater, 16 Marina, S.F. 474-6776

Ali Wong: Dec. 19-21. Punch Line, 444 Battery, S.F., 397-7573. www.punchlinecomedyclub.com.

Bad Movie Night: Black Christmas: Hosts Jim Fourniadis, Ira Emsig, and Alexia Staniotes take a "slav ride" with the 2006 holiday horror also-ran. Sun., Dec. 22, 8 p.m., \$6.99. Dark Room Theater, 2263 Mission, S.F., 401-7987, www.darkroomsf.com.

Barbary Coast Comedy: Featuring Steven Pearl, Sal Calanni, and Myles Weber. Thu., Dec. 19, 7 p.m., \$5, barbarycoastcomedy.com. Legionnaire Saloon, 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, www.legionnairesaloon.com.

Big City Improv: Actors take audience suggestions and create comedy from nothing. Fridays, 10 p.m., \$20, bigcityimprov.com. Shelton Theater, 533 Sutter, S.E. 433-3040, www.sheltontheater.com.

The BitchSlap!: Marga Gomez headlines an all-female night of comedy featuring Kimberly Rose Wendt, Priva Prasad, Emily Epstein White, Tuesday Thomas, and host Eloisa Bravo, Thu., Dec. 19, 8 p.m., facebook.com/beotchslapcomedy. Esta Noche, 3079 16th St., S.F., 861-5757, www.estanocheclub.com.

The Business: A Comedy Show: Featuring Sean Keane. Bucky Sinister, Caitlin Gill, Nato Green, and guests. Wednesdays, 8 p.m., \$5, thebusinesscomedy.com. Dark Room Theater, 2263 Mission, S.F., 401-7987, www.darkroomsf.com

Christmas Comedy Bash: Featuring headliner Kabir "Kabeezy" Singh. Sun., Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m., \$15. Cobb's Comedy Club, 915 Columbus, S.F., 928-4320, www.cobbscomedy.com.

Cobb's Comedy Showcase: See the winners of the Comics to Watch award from SF Weekly's 2013 Best of San Francisco issue, Wed., Dec. 18, 8 p.m., \$12,50. Cobb's Comedy Club, 915 Columbus, S.F., 928-4320, www.cobbscomedy.com.

Comedy Bottle: The Purple Onion at Kells presents two nights with Tom Smith, Matthew Groom, and Ira Summer, Dec. 20-21, 7 p.m., \$15, purpleonionatkells. com, Kells Irish Restaurant & Bar, 530 Jackson, S.F. 955-1916, www.kellsirish.com.

Comedy Night: Open mic hosted by Tony Sparks, Thursdays, 7 p.m., free. BrainWash Cafe & Laundromat, 1122 Folsom, S.F., 861-3663, www.brainwash.com.

Comet Club Comedy: Your free weekly chance to laugh in the Marina (instead of at it). Thursdays, 8:30 p.m., free. Comet Club, 3111 Fillmore, S.F., 567-5589.

The Cynic Cave: Featuring Nato Green, Kate Willett, Drew Platt, Casey Grim, Ryan Papazian, Mean Dave,





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and Aviva Siegel. Sat., Dec. 21, 8 & 10 p.m., \$10, cyniccave.com. Lost Weekend Video, 1034 Valencia St., S.F., 643-3373, www.lostweekendvideo.com.

Don't Mention It: Featuring Trevor Joyner, Richard Toomer, Luna Malbroux, Ron Chapman, Kaseem Bentley, David Gborie, and Jane Harrison. Fri., Dec. 20, 8 & 10 p.m., \$10-. Lost Weekend Video, 1034 Valencia St., S.F., 643-3373, www.lostweekendvideo.com.

**Dueling Pianos at Johnny Foley's: Merry musical** sing-alongs. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 9 p.m., free, duelingpianosatfoleys.com, Johnny Foley's Irish House, 243 O'Farrell St., S.F., 954-0777, www. iohnnyfoleys.com

Exquisite Corpse Theatre: Sci-Fi: The combined legacies of the S.F. Cacophony Society, Surrealism, Mad Libs, and Whose Line Is It Anyway? come together when the audience helps write the script for a new play titled Defenders of Intergalactic Donuts: They Dared to Conquer Infinity. Dec. 20-21, 7 p.m., \$23-\$55, excorp.se. Stage Werx 446, 446 Valencia St, S.F., www.stagewerx.org.

F!#&ing Free Fridays: Even your worst ex can't take away your ability to laugh at yourself when EndGames Improv riffs on "Your F!#&ed Up Relationship" every week. Fridays, 10:30 p.m., free, freecomedyfridays.eventbrite.com. Lost Weekend Video, 1034 Valencia St., S.F., 643-3373, www. lostweekendvideo.com

Fourth Annual Ha Ha Ho Ho Holiday Comedy Show: Featuring headliner Paula Poundstone, Fri., Dec. 20. 8 p.m., \$35+ advance, Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lvon. S.F., 567-6642, www.palaceoffinearts.org.

Hysterical Historical San Francisco: Holiday Edition: Humorous retellings of San Francisco history by comic Kurt Weitzmann, Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 29, \$30-\$40, comedyonthesquare. com, Shelton Theater, 533 Sutter, S.F., 433-3040. www.sheltontheater.com.

It's a Wonderful Life: Live: Bad Movie Night's Jim Fourniadis takes some loving revenge on Frank Capra by writing and directing this humorous stage adaptation of the ubiquitous Christmas film. Fridays, Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 21, \$20. Dark Room Theater, 2263 Mission, S.F., 401-7987, www.darkroomsf.com

Joe DeRosa & Big Jay Oakerson: Dec. 19-21, \$18.50-\$23.50. Cobb's Comedy Club, 915 Columbus, S.F., 928-4320, www.cobbscomedy.com.

The Mission Position: Weekly stand-up comedy showcase hosted by Matt Lieb, Matt Louv, and Kate Willett. Thursdays, 8 p.m., \$10, missionpositionlive. com. Lost Weekend Video, 1034 Valencia St., S.F., 643-3373, www.lostweekendvideo.com.

The Oy of Sex: Love addiction is a laughing matter in this solo theater show (intended for ages 17+) written and performed by stand-up comedian Alicia Dattner, Thursdays-Saturdays, Continues through Jan. 18. \$20-\$100. aliciadattner.com. The Marsh Theater, 1062 Valencia St., S.F., 826-5750, www.

The Purple Onion at Kells: Cellar Dwellers: Wednesdays, Thursdays, 8:15 p.m., \$5, (415) 921-2051, purpleonionatkells.com. Kells Irish Restaurant & Bar, 530 Jackson, S.F., www.kellsirish.com.

themarsh.org.

The Purple Onion at Kells: New Talent Showcase: Wednesdays, Thursdays, 7 p.m., \$5, (415) 921-2051, purpleonionatkells.com. Kells Irish Restaurant & Bar, 530 Jackson, S.F., www.kellsirish.com.

The Purple Onion at Kells: The Later Show: Wednesdays, Thursdays, 10 p.m., \$5, (415) 921-2051, purpleonionatkells.com. Kells Irish Restaurant & Bar, 530 Jackson, S.F., www.kellsirish.com.

Secret Improv Society: Underground improvisational theater. Saturdays, 10 p.m., \$17 advance, improvsociety.com. Shelton Theater, 533 Sutter, S.F., 433-3040, www.sheltontheater.com.

S.F. Comedy Showcase: Weekly roundup of local laughmakers, Sundays, 8 p.m., \$12.50, Punch Line, 444 Battery, S.F., 397-7573, www.punchlinecomedyclub.com.

Speechless Faux Company Holiday Party: Jonathan Dippert, Edwin Zee, Rachel Hamilton, and Kurt "Steve Seabrook" Bodden - plus an audience member TBD – take their chances at giving a motivational speech on a topic they won't know until 10 seconds beforehand. Wall Street analysts predict at least a 10% increase in hilarity for the quarter. Thu., Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m., \$12-\$20, speechlesslive.com. Public Works, 161 Erie, S.F., 932-0955, www.publicsf.com.

Stand-Up Comedy Showcase: With Danny Dechi and guests. Third Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m.,

**Sonya Renee Taylor** 

free, dannydechi.com. Bazaar Cafe, 5927 California, S.F., 831-5620, www.bazaarcafe.com.

Storking Comedy: Weekly stand-up routines followed by bonus interview segments. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., free, facebook.com/SylvanProductions. Stork Club, 2330 Telegraph, Oakland, 510-444-6174, www. storkcluboakland.com

W. Kamau Bell: Through Dec. 18, \$16. Punch Line, 444 Battery, S.F., 397-7573, www.punchlinecomedvclub.com.

#### **DANCE** -**PERFORMANCES**

Ballet Flamenco: Fiesta Navideña: Saturdays, Sundays, 6:15 p.m. Continues through Dec. 29, \$15-\$19, carolinalugo.com. Pachamama Restaurant, 1630 Powell, S.F., 646-0018, www.pachamamacenter.org.

Ballet San Jose: Karen Gabay's The Nutcracker: Second annual performance of choreographer Karen Gabay's modern feminist interpretation of the holiday dance standard. Through Dec. 24: Thu., Dec. 26, \$20-\$105, balletsj.org. San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden, San Jose, 408-277-5277, www.saniose.org/meetings/ facilities/perf arts.php.

Earmark: Featuring debut performances by Laura Dickson, Melissa Lewis, and David Silpa. Through Dec. 18, 8 p.m., \$10-\$20. The Garage, 715 Bryant St., S.F., 885-4006, www.715bryant.org.

Mark Foehringer's Nutcracker Sweets: This contemporary dance production serves up the classic ballet in bite-sized, kid-friendly shows that last less than an hour. Through Dec. 24, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.; Through Dec. 22, 4 p.m., \$18-\$28, Fort Mason, Southside Theater, Marina, S.F., www.fortmason.org.

Oakland Ballet: Graham Lustin's The Nutcracker: Featuring music by the Oakland East Bay Symphony. Sat., Dec. 21, 2 p.m.: Sun., Dec. 22, 2 p.m.: Tue., Dec. 24, 11 a.m., \$20-\$59.50, oaklandballet.org. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland, 510-465-6400, www.paramounttheatre.com.

Okeanos: A Love Letter to the Sea: Dancers and acrobats create a portrait of the ocean in this cirque-styled show by the Capacitor performance troupe. Saturdays, 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 28, \$15-\$30 (includes aquarium admission), capacitor.org. Aquarium of the Bay, Embarcadero, S.F., 623-5300, www.aquariumofthebay.com

S.F. Ballet: Nutcracker: The SFB has been performing its unique San Francisco-set version of this holiday dance standard for almost 70 years. Through Dec. 24; Through Dec. 29, \$25-\$280, sfballet.org. War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness, S.F., 864-3330, www.sfwmpac.org.

Smuin Ballet: XXmas - The Christmas Ballet: Featuring new choreography by Amy Seiwert, Robert Dekkers, and more, Dec. 18-20, 8 n.m.: Sat., Dec. 21, 2 & 8 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 22, 2 & 7 p.m.; Tue., Dec. 24. 2 p.m.: Thu., Dec. 26. 2 & 8 p.m.: Fri., Dec. 27. 8 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 28, 2 & 8 p.m., \$24-\$64, smuinballet. org. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission, S.F., 978-2787, www.ybca.org.

#### **HOLIDAY**

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24th St., S.F. Free; call 282-9246 or visit queeropenmic.com. **Evan Karp** 

**UNAPOLOGETIC TRANSFORMATION** 

Running since 2004, the **Queer Open Mic** has long been an important place for traditionally underrepresented voices to not only express themselves comfortably, but also to experiment with ways to do so. Accordingly, what was

once a literary series has opened up to music, comedy, and performance art. Held every fourth Friday, the series presents one featured performer and an

open mic. This month's feature is the internationally touring powerhouse ac-

tivist for art-as-transformation Sonya Renee Taylor, who founded the movement The Body is Not an Apology and authored the book A Little Truth on Your

Shirt. Taylor's performances are emotional calls to arms; it's almost the norm

Queer Open Mic starts at 7:30 p.m. at Modern Times Bookstore, 2919

for someone in the audience to either start crying or testify that what they

just witnessed was one of the most moving experiences of their life.

FRI 12/20 Literature

#### FRI 12/20 **Improv**

#### **CAPTAINING THE STARSHIP**

Some people love to go to the theater and insist that they could have done a better job. For them, this one is perfect — the latest play from Exquisite Corpse Theatre will be written by the audience on the night of the show. There is, at least, a premise: **Defenders of Intergalactic Donuts** is a sequel of sorts to their last play, The Stars Say Die!!!, and continues to follow the crew aboard the Starship Dental Prize. But that's about as far as it goes. Everything else will be decided at a pre-show sci-fi party. Audience members can write plot twists, lines for their favorite characters, make up new characters, or compose answers for the ship's all-knowing computer. The cast will mingle in costume and the company will provide snacks to ensure creative fuel for the mind and body. After an hour of brainstorming, the script will be printed, and hilarity will ensue. Hopefully. If it doesn't, the audience will have only itself to blame.

Defenders of Intergalactic Donuts starts at 7:30 p.m. and continues through Dec. 21 at Stage Werx Theatre, 446 Valencia St., S.F. Tickets are \$23-\$55; visit stagewerx.org. **Devin Holt** 

on original works by Creativity Explored's artists with developmental diabilities. Through Dec. 30. Creativity Explored, 3245 16th St., S.F., 863-2108, www.creativityexplored.org.

- 21st Annual Kung Pao Kosher Comedy: Jewish **Comedy on Christmas in a Chinese Restaurant:** Lisa Geduldig hosts her yearly series of Jesus-free dinner parties with guest comedians Gary Gulman, Adrianne Tolsch, and Samson Koletkar. Dec. 24-26, 6 & 9:30 p.m., \$44-\$64, koshercomedy.com. New Asia Restaurant, 772 Pacific Ave., S.F., 391-6666.
- 22nd Annual Holiday Crafts Fair: Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Continues through Dec. 21, free. Berkeley Farmers' Market, Center St. & Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-548-3333, www.ecologycenter.org/bfm.
- A Cathedral Christmas: Featuring the Grace Cathe-

- dral Choir of Men and Boys. Saturdays, Sundays, 3 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 22, \$15-\$50. Grace Cathedral, 1100 California, S.F., 749-6300, www.gracecathedral.org.
- A Christmas Carol: Dickens' haunted holiday story returns to the stage as a musical, with James Carpenter starring as Ebenezer Scrooge, Wednesdays-Sundays, Continues through Dec. 28, \$20-\$95. American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.), 415 Geary, S.F., 749-2228, www.act-sf.org/site/PageServer.
- A Holiday Bizarre: All Male Revue 2.0: Bubbles of Fire Burlesque & Variety Show present a special men-only Xmas revue starring Will Longfellow, Bobby Barnaby Bryce, Chesthair A GoGo, Lynx the Animator, Richy Bee, and other bucks. Fri., Dec. 20, 9:30 p.m., \$10, bubblesonfire.com. Hemlock Tavern, 1131 Polk, S.F., 923-0923, www.hemlocktavern.com.

- A Holiday Tradition: Includes tours of the lavishly decorated mansion, carriage rides, live entertainment, and other seasonal offerings. Saturdays. Sundays, 12-4 p.m. Continues through Dec. 22, \$9-\$38. Dunsmuir House and Gardens Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, 510-562-0328, www.dunsmuir.org.
- A Swell Noël: Holiday musical cabaret with Craig Jessup. Through Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 22, 5 p.m., \$23-\$32. Aurora Theatre Company, 2081 Addison, Berkeley, 510-843-4822, www. auroratheatre.org.
- A Very Jerry Christmas: Melvin Seals & JGB celebrate that famous jolly fat man with the beard ... no, not Santa Claus .... Thu., Dec. 19, 8 p.m., \$20-\$25. The New Parish, 579 18th St., Oakland, 510-444-7474. www.thenewparish.com.
- A Winter Gift: Featuring Legends of the Celtic Harp (Patrick Ball, Lisa Lynn, and Arveh Frankfurter). Thu., Dec. 19, 8 p.m., \$22.50-\$24.50. Freight & Salvage Coffee House, 2020 Addison, Berkeley, 510-548-7603, www.freightandsalvage.org.
- The Annual Utrillo Kushner Xmas Chili Cook-Off & Pageant: Sun., Dec. 22, 5 p.m., free. The Rite Spot Cafe, 2099 Folsom, S.F., 552-6066, www. ritespotcafe.net
- A Very Grinchy Story Time: Kids can meet the Grinch in person at this reading of the beloved Dr. Seuss holiday story. Sat., Dec. 21, 11 a.m., free. Books Inc./Marina, 2251 Chestnut, S.F., 931-3633, www.hooksinc.net
- Ballet Flamenco: Fiesta Navideña: Saturdays, Sundays, 6:15 p.m. Continues through Dec. 29. \$15-\$19, carolinalugo.com, Pachamama Restaurant. 1630 Powell, S.F., 646-0018, www.pachamamacenter.org.
- Ballet San Jose: Karen Gabay's The Nutcracker: Second annual performance of choreographer Karen Gabay's modern feminist interpretation of the holiday dance standard. Through Dec. 24; Thu., Dec. 26, \$20-\$105, balletsj.org. San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden, San Jose, 408-277-5277, www.sanjose.org/meetings/ facilities/perf arts.php

The Bay Brass: A Brass & Organ Christmas: Thu.,

Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m., \$15-\$50. Grace Cathedral, 1100 California, S.F., 749-6300, www.gracecathedral.org.

- Beach Blanket Babylon Seasonal Extravaganza: Special holiday version of Steve Silver's pop-culture-skewering musical revue, complete with tap dancing Christmas trees. Wednesdays-Sundays. Continues through Dec. 28, \$25-\$159, beachblanketbabylon.com. Club Fugazi, 678 Green, S.F., 421-4222, www.beachblanketbabylon.com.
- Black Christmas with the Afrofunk Experience & Broun Fellinis: Thu., Dec. 19, 8:30 p.m., \$8. Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market, S.F., 861-5016, www. cafedunord.com.
- The Brian Setzer Orchestra: Christmas Rocks: Tue., Dec. 24, 8 p.m., \$49,50-\$69,50, Warfield Theatre, 982 Market, S.F., 345-0900, www.thewarfieldtheatre.com
- California Revels: 28th Annual Christmas Revels -The Spirits of Haddon Hall: Seasonal musical set in an English country estate after WWI. Saturdays, Sundays, 1 & 5 p.m.; Fridays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 22, \$12-\$55, californiarevels.org. Scottish Rite Theater, 1547 Lakeside, Oakland, 925-798-1300, www.scottish-rite.org.
- California Symphony: Home for the Holidays: Mon., Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m., \$15-\$65, californiasymphony. org. Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic, Walnut Creek, 925-943-7469, www.dlrca.org.
- Noir City Xmas: There are no guarantees for a happy holiday when Noir City's Eddie Muller presents a dark cinema double-feature that includes Blast of Silence (1961) and Christmas Eve aka Sinner's Holiday (1947), Wed., Dec. 18, 7 p.m. The Castro Theatre. 429 Castro, S.F., 621-6120, www.castrotheatre.com.

#### SAT 12/21 **Dance**

#### TEASERS

If all the mince pies and mulled wine have you hankering for a fresh and zesty chaser, head to the tiny black box stage at the Garage, where three fierce female choreographers, each awarded grants from the Fleishhacker Foundation to produce evening-length works at ODC Theater in 2014, present previews of their work as part of the **Anthro(pop)ology** dance series. To satisfy your fetish for edgy robot burlesque, Anna Sullivan's Anna and the Annadroids will dance an excerpt of Man(u)fractured. If you're in the mood for some moonshine where the sun don't shine, Bianca Cabrera's Blind Tiger Society promises pure hedonism in a slice of The Aftermath Affair. Those desiring some Latin heat can get their fix with Aguas Dance Company in Tania Santiago's Movendo con Capoeira, about the relationship between capoeira and Afro-Brazilian spirituality. Because these dark days demand good nights.

Anthro(pop)ology presents Anna and the Annadroids, the Blind Tiger Society, and Aguas Dance Company at 8 p.m. through Sunday at the Garage, 715 Bryant St., S.F. Tickets are \$15-\$20; visit 715bryant.org. *Irene Hsiao* 



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Celtic Winter Solstice Concert with Four Shillings Short & Brocefiande: Sat., Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m., \$10-\$12. St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, 2097 Turk, S.F., 567-1855, www.saintcyprianssf.org.

Christmas Comedy Bash: Featuring headliner Kabir "Kabeezy" Singh. Sun., Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m., \$15. Cobb's Comedy Club, 915 Columbus, S.F., 928-4320, www.cobbscomedy.com.

Christmas with the Celts: Sun., Dec. 22, 2 & 6 p.m., \$28-\$55. Yoshi's San Francisco, 1330 Fillmore, S.F., 655-5600, www.yoshis.com.

Christmas with the Deadlies: Wed., Dec. 18, 8 p.m. Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge, 1304 Lincoln, Alameda, 510-749-0332, www.forbiddenislandalameda.com.

City Church Little Big Band: Go Tell it! - Jazzy
Carols: Thu., Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m., \$25-\$45, \$FJAZZ



SUN 12/22 Comedy

#### **MERRY BITCHMAS**

Well-respected, notoriously scathing drag "Grinch" Jackie Beat is appearing for one night only in S.F. to throw some shade in the direction of your most treasured holiday-related belief systems. The performer, who's been awarded countless drag-related and theatrical honors and once toured with Roseanne Barr, describes herself as the bastard child of Weird Al Yankovic and Bette Midler. In her one-night, onewoman show, O Holy Hell!, she'll be taking the holidays to task, with satirical carol parodies and all-new comedy material. Beat's been doing original shows every holiday season since 1998, when her takedown was featured in a Catholic League's Report on anti-Catholicism, which has got to be a pretty high mark for a satirical holiday show. If you're only going to see one drag show this holiday season, and you'd like for it to be this drag show, get your tickets early as she'll probably sell it out. Jackie Beat's O Holy Hell!

takes place at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. at Rebel, 1772 Market St., S.F. Tickets are \$26.596-3015 or missjackiebeat.com. *Emilie Mutert* 

Center, 205 Franklin St., S.F., 866-920-5299, www. sfiazz.org.

Clairdee's 11th Annual Christmas Eve Show: Tue., Dec. 24, 8 p.m., \$20. Yoshi's San Francisco, 1330 Fillmore, S.F., 655-5600, www.yoshis.com.

Countess Katya Smirnoff-Skyy's Holiday Spectacular: Thu., Dec. 19, 8 p.m., \$25-\$35. Feinstein's at the Nikko. 222 Mason St., S.F., 394-1111.

Crones for the Holidays: The Sequel: Crackpot Crones Terry Baum and Carolyn Myers bring their trademark sass to lesbian-centric holiday stories, comedy sketches, sing-alongs, and more. Saturdays, 3 & 8 p.m.; Sundays, 3 p.m. Continues through Dec. 29, \$15-\$20, crackpotcrones.com. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy, S.F., 673-3847, www.theexit.org.

Fifth Annual Renegade Craft Fair Winter Market: Dec. 21-22, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., free, renegadecraft.com. Concourse Exhibition Center, 635 Eighth St., S.F., 487-3293, www.sfvenues.com.

Fourth Annual Ha Ha Ho Ho Holiday Comedy Show: Featuring headliner Paula Poundstone. Fri., Dec. 20, 8 p.m., \$35+ advance. Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon, S.F., 567-6642, www.palaceoffinearts.org.

**G. Scott Lacy's Holiday Cabaret:** Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Dec. 22, \$20-\$40, societycabaret.com. Hotel Rex, 562 Sutter, S.F., 433-4434.

Golden Bough: A Celtic Yuletide Celebration: Fri., Dec. 20, 8 p.m., \$14-\$17, goldenboughmusic.com. Old First Presbyterian Church, 1751 Sacramento, S.F., 776-5552, www.oldfirst.org.

The Golden Girls: The Christmas Episodes 2013: Heklina, Matthew Martin, Pollo Del Mar, Cookie Dough, and celebrity guests present their eighth annual "All Drag Xmas Exdrag-a-ganza" featuring everyone's favorite Floridian retirees in full-on holiday spirits. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 22, \$30, trannyshack.com. Victoria Theatre, 296116th St., S.F., 863-7576, www.victoriatheatre.org.

Happy Birthday Jesus: The Alaska Christmas Show: "Stocking stuffer" takes on an entirely new meaning at this holiday cabaret starring Alaska Thunderfuck from *RuPaul's Drag Race*. Dec. 18-20, 7:30 & 10 p.m., \$22.50-\$40. Rebel, 1760 Market, S.F., 431-4202.

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas: An Evening with Connie Champagne as Judy Garland: Wed., Dec. 18, 8 p.m., \$25-\$35. Feinstein's at the Nikko, 222 Mason St. S. F. 394-1111

Holiday Caroling on Lake Merritt: Share a "water sleigh" and sing with 15-20 other carolers during these musical boat rides on the lake. Tours depart from the Lake Merritt Boating Center in Lakeside Park (568 Bellevue Avenue). Thursdays, Fridays, 4-8 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, 3-8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 22, \$6. Lake Merritt, Grand Ave. off 580, Oakland, 831-2700.

Holiday Fest: A Gift Worth Giving: LightHouse for the Blind benefit concert with Goapele, Peter Chung, Aisea Taimani, Lauren Hulbert, Cheza Nami, DJ Smuve, and more. Sun., Dec. 22, 6 p.m., \$30-\$40. Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon, S.F., 567-6642, www.palaceoffinearts.org.

Holiday Ice Rink at Embarcadero Center: Fridays, Saturdays, 10 a.m.-11:30 p.m.; Mondays-Thursdays, Sundays, 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Continues through Jan. 5, \$6-\$10 (+ \$4 for skate rentals), embarcaderocenter.com/attractions/holiday-ice-rink. Justin Herman Plaza, 1 Market, S.F., 772-0700.

Holiday Ice Rink in Union Square: Through Jan. 20, 2014, 10 a.m.-11:30 p.m., 57-\$11 (+ \$5 for skate rentals), unionsquareicrink.com. Union Square Park. 333 Post. S.F. 831-2700. unionsquarepark.us.

Holidaze with The Blank Tapes, The Electric Magpie, The Spiral Electric, Assateague: Wed., Dec. 18, 8 p.m., \$12. The Chapel, 777 Valencia St., S.F., 551-5157, www.thechapelsf.com.

Home for the Holidays: Includes a winter village with a 45-foot tree, light displays, and "real live snow" falling thrice daily. Through Der. 31. Hyatt Regency San Francisco, 5 Embarcadero Center, S.F., 788-1234, www.sanfranciscoregency.hyatt.com.

It's a Wonderful Life: Live: Bad Movie Night's Jim Fourniadis takes some loving revenge on Frank Capra by writing and directing this humorous stage adaptation of the ubiquitous Christmas film. Fridays, Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 21, \$20. Dark Room Theater, 2263 Mission, S.F., 401-7987, www.darkroomsf.com.

It's Christmas, Carole!: The people who brought you Wunderworld return with an all-new "human cartoon" that retells Dickens' holiday story in a uniquely quirky, kid-friendly way. Thursdays, Fridays, 7 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, 2 & 5 p.m. Continues through Dec. 22, \$10-\$20, itschrist-mascarole.com. Children's Creativity Museum, 221 4th St., S.F., 820-3320, www.creativity.org.

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol: Ebenezer Scrooge's late business partner takes center stage in this re-envisioning of the classic Dickens story. Tuesdays-Sundays. Continues through Dec. 22, \$37-\$58. Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller, Mill Valley, 388-5200, www.marintheatre.org.

The Jewelry Box: A Genuine Christmas Story: Brian Copeland tries to find the perfect holiday gift for his mother in this family friendly solo show set in 1970s Oakland. Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 5 p.m.; Thursdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 28. The Marsh Theater, 1062 Valencia St., S.F., 826-5750, www.themarsh.org.

Kim Nalley's Gospel Christmas: Sun., Dec. 22, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., \$22. Biscuits and Blues, 401 Mason, S.F., 292-2583, www.biscuitsandblues.com.

Kitka: Wintersongs: Sat., Dec. 21, 8 p.m., \$15-\$25,

kitka.org. Old First Presbyterian Church, 1751 Sacramento, S.F., 776-5552, www.oldfirst.org.

Latke Ball 2013: Presented by the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, and Sonoma Counties. Tue., Dec. 24, 9 p.m., \$30-\$50. Ruby Skye, 420 Mason, S.F., 693-0777, www.rubyskye.com.

Magnificat: A Venetian Christmas Mass: Sun., Dec. 22, 4 p.m., \$30-\$35, sfems.org. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell, S.F., 928-7770, www.stmarks-sf.org.

Mark Foehringer's Nutcracker Sweets: This contemporary dance production serves up the classic ballet in bite-sized, kid-friendly shows that last less than an hour. Through Dec. 24, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.; Through Dec. 22, 4 p.m., \$18-\$28. Fort Mason, Southside Theater, Marina, S.F., www. fortmason.org.

Meals on Wheels of San Francisco Benefit Concert with Michelle Schmitt: Wed., Dec. 18, 8 p.m., \$20-\$100. SFJAZZ Center, 205 Franklin St., S.F., 866-920-5299, www.sfjazz.org. Mittens & Mistletoe: A Winter Circus Cabaret: Featuring performers from Teatro Zinzanni, Circus Bella, Vespertine Circus, Pickle Family Circus, and more. Dec. 20-24, \$15-\$60. Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St., S.F., 273-4633, www.dancemission.com.

Natasha Miller's Annual Holiday Concert: Mon., Dec. 23, 8 p.m., \$16-\$20. Yoshi's San Francisco, 1330 Fillmore, S.F., 655-5600, www.yoshis.com.

Oakland Ballet: Graham Lustig's The Nutcracker: Featuring music by the Oakland East Bay Symphony. Sat., Dec. 21, 2 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 22, 2 p.m.; Tue., Dec. 24, 11 a.m., \$20-\$59.50, oaklandballet. org. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland, 510-465-6400. www.paramounttheatre.com.

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir Ensemble: Tue., Dec. 24, 7 & 9:30 p.m., \$15. Slim's, 333 11th St., S.F., 255-0333, www.slimspresents.com.

The Octopus Winter Solstice Salon: The Octopus heads up into the Oakland hills for this holiday installment of its literary salon, which features solstice-inspired mini-plays, seasonal music, >>



and more. Sat., Dec. 21, 4-10 p.m., \$12, oaklandoctopus.org. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline, Oakland, 510-336-7300, www. chabotspace.org.

- Posadas at the Poppy: Thu., Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m., free. Red Poppy Art House, 2698 Folsom, S.F., 826-2402, www.redpoppyarthouse.org.
- Ragazzi Continuo: Mary Had a Baby A Christmas Celebration: Sun., Dec. 22, 2:30 p.m., \$18-\$20, ragazzicontinuo.org. Trinity Episcopal Church, 1668 Bush, S.F., 775-1117, sftrinityepiscopalchurch. wordnress.com.
- Reindeer Rendezvous: Special holiday presentations with live caribou. Through Dec. 31, noon, California Academy of Sciences, 55 Music Concourse, S.F., 379-8000, www.calacademy.org.
- San Francisco Boys Chorus: A Not So Silent Night: Sat., Dec. 21, 8 p.m., \$10-\$30, sfbc.org. Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison, Oakland, 510-832-5057, www.ctlcathedral.org.
- San Francisco Girls Chorus: Hark, the Herald Angels Swing!: w/ The Marcus Shelby Quintet. Sun., Dec. 22, 8 p.m., \$30-\$65, sfgirlschorus.org, Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness, S.F., 864-6000, www.sfsymphony.org.
- San Francisco Renaissance Voices: A Festival of Lessons & Carols: Sat., Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m., free, sfrvoices.org. Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1329 Seventh Ave., S.F., 664-2543, www. seventhavenuechurch.org
- Santa Claus Is Coming Out: Jeffrey Solomon presents his Off-Broadway solo show in which Kris Kringle is secretly a hear (and Mrs. Claus is a heard). Thus Dec. 19. 8 n.m.: Fri., Dec. 20. 8 n.m.: Sat., Dec. 21. 9:30 n.m.: Sun., Dec. 22, 5 n.m.: Mon., Dec. 23, 6 p.m.: Tue., Dec. 24, 3 p.m., \$25-\$35, combinedartform.com, Eureka Theatre, 215 Jackson, S.F., 788-7469, www.theeurekatheatre.com.
- The Santaland Diaries: David Sinaiko stars as Crumpet the Elf in Joe Mantello's stage adaptation of the popular David Sedaris humor essay. Sat., Dec. 21, 7 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 22, 2 & 8 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 23, 8 p.m.; Tue., Dec. 24, 1 p.m.; Dec. 26-28, 8 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 29, 2 & 5 p.m., \$25-\$35, combinedartform.com. Eureka Theatre, 215 Jackson, S.F., 788-7469, www. theeurekatheatre.com

#### TUE 12/24

**Choral Performance** 

#### **WE ALL SHINE ON**

This year marks the 35th anniversary for the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. It's been an exciting but difficult road for the group — its first performance was at a candlelight vigil for Harvey Milk on the night of his murder, it ignited a worldwide gay choral movement with its groundbreaking tour in 1981, and it remained active in the community throughout the height of the AIDS epidemic. Despite this activist past, the group never lost its ability to revel in the simple joy of music. That much will be apparent in **Shine**, its annual holiday production. This year sees 300 men swinging 600 pompoms and a special guest appearance from recording artist Matt Alba. As for the setlist, Artistic Director Dr. Timothy Seelig was coy about naming the songs, but he promised favorites like "Jingle Bells," "Silent Night," and "White Christmas." He also promised some extra surprises. "Of course it would be easy to just list the songs we are singing," Seelig says. "But that wouldn't even begin to tell the whole story."

Shine starts at 5 p.m., 7 p.m., and 9 p.m. at the Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St., S.F. Tickets are \$25-\$35; call 392-4400 or visit sfgmc.org.

- Seventh Annual Holiday Circle of Lights: A "magical storyland" of illuminated holiday scenes. Through Jan. 1, 2014, 5-9 p.m., free. Mountain View Cemetery, 5000 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2588, www.mountainviewcemetery.org.
- S.F. Ballet: Nutcracker: The SFB has been performing its unique San Francisco-set version of this holiday dance standard for almost 70 years. Through Dec. 24: Through Dec. 29, \$25-\$280, sfballet.org, War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness, S.F., 864-3330, www.sfwmpac.org.
- S.F. Symphony: Handel's Messiah: Dec. 19-21, 8 p.m., \$15-\$156. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness, S.F., 864-6000, www.sfsymphony.org.
- S.F. Symphony: All Is Bright: Christmas matinee. Dec. 20-21, 2 p.m., \$15-\$75, Davies Symphony Hall, 201

Van Ness, S.E., 864-6000, www.sfsymphony.org. S.F. Symphony: 'Twas the Night: Carols and singalongs with the S.F. Symphony Chorus and brass section. Sun., Dec. 22, 4 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 23, 8 p.m.; Tue., Dec. 24, 11 a.m., \$15-\$75. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness, S.F., 864-6000, www. sfsymphony.org.

Sing You a Merry Christmas: Sing-along for children and families. Sat., Dec. 21, 11 a.m., \$5-\$25. Grace Cathedral, 1100 California, S.F., 749-6300, www. gracecathedral.org.

Sixth Annual Stompy Jones Sleigh Ride: Fri., Dec. 20, 8 p.m., \$15, oldtimey.net/xmas.htm. Verdi Club, 2424 Mariposa, S.F., 861-5048, www.verdiclub.net.

- Smuin Ballet: XXmas The Christmas Ballet: Featuring new choreography by Amy Seiwert, Robert Dekkers, and more, Dec. 18-20, 8 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 21. 2 & 8 p.m.: Sun., Dec. 22. 2 & 7 p.m.: Tue., Dec. 24. 2 p.m.: Thu., Dec. 26. 2 & 8 p.m.: Fri., Dec. 27. 8 p.m.: Sat., Dec. 28, 2 & 8 p.m., \$24-\$64, smuinballet. org. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. 701 Mission. S.F., 978-2787, www.vbca.org.
- Sweet Soul Christmas with Greg Adams & East Bay Soul: Thu., Dec. 19, 8 p.m., \$25. Yoshi's San Francisco, 1330 Fillmore, S.F., 655-5600, www. voshis.com.
- Third Annual MC Lars Annual Ugly Sweater Party: w/ C.U.P.C.A.K.E., The Wilde, Peck the Town Crier. Sat., Dec. 21, 9 p.m., \$13. Uptown Nightclub, 1928 Telegraph, Oakland, 510-451-8100, www.uptown-
- Too Many Tamales: The Marsh Youth Theater presents its stage adaptation of Gary Soto's picture book about a holiday dinner, a missing family heirloom, and a whole lotta Mexican food. Through Dec. 23; Through Dec. 30; Through Jan. 4, 2014, \$8-\$35. The Marsh Theater, 1062 Valencia St., S.F., 826-5750. www.themarsh.org.
- The Vandals' 18th Annual Christmas Formal with Emily's Army, The Blast: Sat., Dec. 21, 9 p.m., \$18. Slim's, 333 11th St., S.F., 255-0333, www. slimspresents.com.
- VOENA: Voices of the Season: Wed., Dec. 18, 7 p.m., \$14-\$21. Yoshi's San Francisco, 1330 Fillmore, S.F., 655-5600, www.yoshis.com.
- Windham Hill Winter Solstice Concert: w/ Barbara Higbie, Liz Story, Lisa Lynne, George Tortorelli, and Aryeh Frankfurter. Sun., Dec. 22, 4 p.m., \$25-\$60. SFJAZZ Center, 205 Franklin St., S.F., 866-920-5299, www.sfjazz.org.
- Winter Wonderland: Includes a Santa village, \$1 ice skating rink, food & crafts market, music, and - yes, Virginia - even real snow. Thu., Dec. 19, 5-9 p.m., free. Bayview Opera House, 4705 Third St., S.F., 864-0386, www.bayviewoperahouse.org.
- Xmas with the Bogues: Sat., Dec. 21, 9 p.m. The Lucky Horseshoe, 453 Cortland, S.F., www.theluckyhorseshoehar.com.
- Zoo Lights: Holiday lighting illuminates such seasonal activities as Santa visits, reindeer sightings. snacks, games, and more, Dec. 20-23, 4:30-8 p.m.; Dec. 26-30, 4:30-8 p.m., \$7.50, San Francisco Zoo. 1Zoo, S.F., 753-7080, www.sfzoo.org.



#### **ROCK**

- Stu Allen & Mars Hotel: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$30-\$35. Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 1710 Mission, S.F., 800-8782.
- Calexico: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$65-\$79.75. The Fillmore, 1805 Geary, S.F., 346-6000.
- Family, Friends, and Fans New Year's Eve Party with New Monsoon: Tue., Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m., \$35-\$45. Connecticut Yankee, 100 Connecticut, S.F., 552-4440.
- The Final Countdown: Red Devil Lounge NYE closing party with Pop Rocks, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$60. Red Devil Lounge, 1695 Polk, S.F., 921-1695.
- The Fresh & Onlys, Vetiver, Sun Araw, Pure Bliss: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$25-\$30. The Chapel, 777 Valencia St., S.F., 551-5157.
- Generationals, The Frail, Nova Albion: Tue., Dec. 31, 10 p.m., \$22-\$25, Bottom of the Hill, 1233 17th St., S.F., 621-4455.
- Loving Cup NYE: w/ French Cassettes, Sugar Candy Mountain, FpodBpod, Jjaaxxnn, Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$15, Amnesia, 853 Valencia, S.F., 970-0012
- Melvins, Redd Kross, Frightwig: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$40. Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell, S.F., 885-0750.
- New Year's Eve Bash with Glitter Wizard, Pins of Light, Owl: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$12. Hemlock Tavern, 1131 Polk, S.F., 923-0923.
- New Year's Eve with the UnOriginals: Tue., Dec. 31, 10 p.m. Maggie McGarry's, 1353 Grant, S.F., 399-9020. New Year's Extravaganza: With music by Danny Click
- & The Hell Yeahs, comedy by Mark Pitta, and more., Tue., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m., \$60-\$80.142 Throckmorton Theatre, 142 Throckmorton, Mill Valley, 383-9600.
- New Year's Party with Grimace & The Fakers: Tue., Dec. 31, 10 p.m., \$15, Sub-Mission Art Space (Balazo 18 Gallery), 2183 Mission, S.F., 255-7227.
- Night Light New Year's Eve Ball: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$10. The Night Light, 311 Broadway, Oakland. 510-282-1413.
- NOFX New Year's Heave: w/ Dillinger Four, Teenage Bottlerocket, Implants, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$40-\$52. Warfield Theatre, 982 Market, S.F., 345-0900.
- Primus & The Chocolate Factory: w/ The Frog Brigade Ensemble, Tue., Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m., \$49.50-\$65, www.apeconcerts.com. Fox Theater - Oakland, 1807 Telegraph, Oakland, 510-548-3010.
- Chuck Prophet & The Mission Express, Tender Mercies: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$30. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck, Berkeley, 510-841-2082.
- The Remones: Tue., Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m., free. The Riptide, 3639 Taraval, S.F., 759-7263.

#### **DANCE**

- '80s NYE 2014: w/ DJs Kurt Harland (Information Society), Shindog, Andy T, Porter, Damon, and Ryan, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$20+ advance, 80s\_nye\_2014.eventbee.com. Cat Club, 1190 Folsom, S.F., 703-8964.
- A Grand Affair: Tue., Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m., \$89.95+ advance, sfgrand.com/nye2014. The Grand Nightclub, 520 4th St., S.F., 814-3008.
- All Systems Are Go: NYE 2014: w/ Ken Loi & John Beaver, Tue., Dec. 31, 10 p.m., \$25 advance, asagnye. com. Vessel, 85 Campton, S.F., 433-8585.
- Bearracuda: Eighth Annual NYE S.F.: w/ DJs Paul Goodyear & Matt Stands, Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$20 advance, bearracuda.com. BeatBox, 314 11th St., S.F., 500-2675.
- Blow in 2014: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$10. Edinburgh Castle, 950 Geary, S.F., 885-4074.

- Bootie S.F.: NYE 2014 Shit Show: w/ A+D. Smash-Up Derby, DJ Dada, Donstrot, MyKill, Meikee Magnetic, Mixtress Shizaam, BishopeMagnetic, Entyme, Airsun more Tue. Dec. 31. 9 n.m. \$30-\$40, hootiesf. com. DNA Lounge, 375 11th St., S.F., 626-1409.
- Butterfly New Year's Eve: A Great Gatsby Inspired Event: w/ The Les & DJ MytyMyke, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$99+ advance, butterflynye2014.eventbrite. com. Butterfly, 33 Pier, S.F., 864-8999.
- Catch 2014 If You Can: w/ Traviswild, Jsanty, Deejay Theory, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$149+ advance. Hotel Vitale, 8 Mission St., S.F., 413-4716.
- Champagne Resolutions: w/ DJs Cobra, Twin Spin, and Intensify, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$100+ advance. Hyatt Regency San Francisco, 5 Embarcadero Center, S.F., 788-1234.
- Champagne Showers: w/ DJs Footy & Jeanine Da Feen, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., free. Lexington Club, 3464 19th St., S.F., 863-2052.
- Club Raven NYE Celebration: w/ DJ Jorge Terez, Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$25. Raven, 1151 Folsom St., S F 431-1151
- EndUp NYE & 40th Anniversary Party: w/ Colette & DJ Heather, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$40. The EndUp, 401 Sixth St., S.F., 646-0999
- Enic New Year's Eve 2014: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 n.m., \$35+ advance, Westin San Francisco Market Street, 50 Third St., S.F., 974-6400.
- Fifth Annual Streets of San Francisco NYE: w/ Moby (DJ set), Alex Sibley, Aaron Axelsen, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$125+ advance, streetsofsfnye. com. Fort Mason, Festival Pavilion, Marina, S.F.,
- Frigo-International Discotheque: Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$20-\$25. Make-Out Room, 3225 22nd St., S.F., 647-2888
- Holy Ghost!, Midi Matilda, DJ Vin Sol: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., sold out. The Independent, 628 Divisadero, S F 771-1420
- Honey Sunset NYE: w/ Matthew Dear, Solar, Galen, Jason Kendig, P-Play, Josh Cheon, Robot Hustle, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$25-\$40 advance, Public Works, 161 Erie, S.F., 932-0955.
- Masquerade: New Year's Eve 2014: w/ DJ Miles Medina, Tue., Dec. 31, 10 p.m., \$45+ advance. Infusion Lounge, 124 Ellis, S.F., 421-8700.
- Midnight Dreamz NYE 2014: w/ D.I Alex Dreamz, Tue. Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$25-\$100. Sloane, 1525 Mission, S.F. 621-7007.
- Mighty Mammoth Masquerade: w/ Blond:ish, Gravity, Moe Moe, Jonathan Will, Zach Walker, Markie B. Derek Hena, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$35-\$100 advance, pinkmammoth.org. Mighty, 119 Utah, S.F., 762-0151.
- Neon New Year's 2014: w/ Tall Sasha, Tue., Dec. 31, 10 p.m., \$35+ advance, supperclub2014.eventbrite. com. Supperclub San Francisco, 657 Harrison, S.F. 348-0900
- New Bohemia NYE: w/ The Crystal Method, Vau de Vire Society, Syd Gris, Josh Camacho, Melyss, Dulce Vita, Kimba, DJ Kramer, Ben Seagren, Drew Drop, Billy Seal, Brian Peek, Grammar, The Quadrobe, DJ Dane, Clarkie, The Jazz Mafia, many more, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$60-\$150 advance, newbohemianve. com. The Armory, 1800 Mission, S.F., 677-0456.
- New Year New Wave: w/ The Certain People Crew. Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$15-\$20 advance, Slate Bar. 2925 16th St., S.F., 558-8521.
- New Year's Eve 2014 with Nervo: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$100-\$150 advance. Ruby Skye, 420 Mason, S.F., 693-0777.
- New Year's Eve at the Starlight Room: w/ Club 90, Tue., Dec. 31, 10 p.m., \$100. Harry Denton's Starlight Room, 450 Powell, S.F., 395-8595.
- New Year's Eve Black & Red Ball: With DJ Basura., Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$10-\$20. Blank Club, 44 S.



Almaden, San Jose, 408-292-5265.

- New Year's Eve Celebration with DJ Hazmat: Tue., Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m., \$5-\$8. Lookout, 3600 16th St., S.F., 703-9751.
- The New Year's Eve Extravaganza Ball 2014: w/ Psychemagik, Sleight of Hands, Shiny Objects, Jason Greer, Tyrel Williams, Miguel Solari, Anthony Mansfield, Mozhgan, Cole, Jimmy B, Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$40 advance. Monarch, 101 6th St., S.F. 284-9774.
- The No Theme Super New Year's Dance Jam: w/ DJs Sonny Phono & Facemelter, Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$10. Madrone Art Bar, 500 Divisadero, S.F., 241-0202.
- NYE 2014 at W S.F.: w/ DJ Panic City, Made Monsters, Tech Minds, Brian V, Darker Daze, DJ Antiks, DJ Feldy, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$135+ advance. W San Francisco, 181 Third St., S.F., 777-5300.
- NYE 2014 with DJ David Carvalho: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$30+ advance. Slide, 430 Mason, S.F., 421-1916. NYE 2014 with Fehrplay: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$35-\$75 advance. Audio Discotech, 316 11th St., S.F., 310-869-3364.
- NYE 2014 with Trent Cantrelle, Pheeko Dubfunk, David Paul: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$35+ advance. Yoshi's San Francisco, 1330 Fillmore, S.F., 655-5600.
- NYE International Ball 2014: w/ One More Time: A Tribute to Daff Punk, Chris Harnett, DJ Aykut, Dr. T, DJ Santero, Juan Data, Kevin Armstrong, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 zp.m., \$85+ advance, aykutevents.com. The Palace Hotel, 2 New Montgomery, S.F., 512-1111.
- NYE Massive 2014: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$45+ advance. Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel, 55 Cyril Magnin, S.F., 392-8000.
- NYE Tropical Disco Party: w/ Poolside, Le Youth, Miles the DJ, more, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$50-\$85. Neck of the Woods, 406 Clement St., S.F., 387-6343.
- The Parlor NYE: w/ The Designer Deejays, Tue., Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m., \$45+ advance. The Parlor, 2801 Leavenworth, S.F., 775-5110.
- Passport to the World 2014: w/ The Spazmatics, Maikaze Daiko, DJs, fashion shows, live art, more, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$110+ advance, alistsf.com. The Westin St. Francis, 335 Powell, S.F., 397-7000.
- The People: Rise & Harmonize New Year's Eve Celebration: w/ Jayvi Velasco, Patrick Wilson, Valerie Troutt, Dion Decibles, Cecil, Cali, more, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$10-\$20. The New Parish, 579 18th \$1. Oakland, 510-444-7474
- PopNYE: Let Love Bloom: w/ New World Punx (Markus Schulz & Ferry Corsten), Nero, Bingo Players, Madeon, Moguai, Tue., Dec. 31, 6 p.m., \$100-\$125 advance, popnye.com. Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum, Oakland, 510-569-2121.
- Press Club New Year's Eve Party: w/ DJ Char Harms, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$65-\$100 advance. Press Club Wine Bar and Lounge, 20 Yerba Buena, S.F., 744-5000.
- Sea of Dreams NYE 2014: w/ Thievery Corporation, Little Dragon, A-Trak, Dillon Francis, Emancipator, J.Phlip, Worthy, Christian Martin, Thriftworks, Nolan Gray, Jocelyn, Dax, more, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$75-\$170 advance, www.seaofdreamsnye. com. Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 99 Grove, S.F., 510-548-3010.
- The Silver Ball: w/ DJ Spider, Sam Isaac, Ryan Lucero, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$55+ advance. Harlot, 46 Minna, S.F., 777-1077.
- **Sugar NYE 2014:** Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., jceventssf.com. The Cafe, 2369 Market, S.F., 621-4434.
- Tainted Love: w/ Mustache Harbor, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$52.50-\$57. The Regency Ballroom, 1290 Sutter. S.F. 673-5716.
- The Teenage Dance Craze NYE: w/ DJ dX, Okie Oran, and Russell Quan, Tue., Dec. 31, 10 p.m., \$10. The Knockout, 3223 Mission, S.F., 550-6994.
- Temple New Year's Eve 2014: w/ St. John, Paul Hemming, IQ, Trap City DJs, plus a "massive headliner" TBA, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$25-\$150 advance. Temple, 540 Howard, S.F., 978-9942.
- **Welcome 2014:** w/ DJs Mixtek & Jackson, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$25-\$35. Balancoire, 2565 Mission St., S.F., 920-0577.
- The Wild One: NYE 2014: w/ J. Espinosa, Katrina B, Kid Vicious, DJ Midnight, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$25 advance. The Cellar, 685 Sutter, S.F., 441-5678.
- Wildfire! NYE: w/ Chief Boima, Kush Arora, Geko Jones, Mano, Uproot Andy, Ushka, Oro11, Milkplant, Rubidium, Guidewire, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$10-\$20. Riddim, 581 5th St., Oakland, 510-394-2063.
- Wine & Bowties NYE: w/ DJ sets by Antwon, Daghe, Yung SMH, and Ms. Söfi, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$15-\$20 advance, wineandbowtiesnye.eventbrite. com. Geoffrey's Inner Circle, 410 14th St., Oakland,

510-839-4644.

Wish New Year's Eve 2014: w/ DJs Jamie Swing, Mario Dubbz, and Heather B., Tue., Dec. 31, 5 p.m., \$30-\$40 advance (free before 8 p.m.), wishsf. eventbrite.com. Wish, 1539 Folsom, S.F., 278-9474.

#### **HIP-HOP**

- Atmosphere NYE: w/ DJs Momix, Parix, J-Kixx, and Kendiesel, Tue., Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m., \$50+ advance. Atmosphere, 447 Broadway, S.F., 788-4623.
- Danny Brown, Flatbush Zombies, Traxamillion: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$45. Mezzanine, 444 Jessie, S.F., 625-8880.
- Bruno's NYE 2014: w/ White Mike, King Most, Justin Scott, and DJ Tone, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$20+ advance. Bruno's, 2389 Mission, S.F., 925-371-3999.
- Countdown 2014: w/ DJ Andrez, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$20+ advance. Horizon Lounge, 498 Broadway, S.F., 576-1118.
- Family Affair NYE: w/ DJs Platurn, Mr. E, Max Kane, Deejay Saurus, Marc Stretch, Delgado, Odiaka, and Halo, Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Legionnaire Saloon, 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.
- Fireworks Over the Bay: NYE 2014: w/ DJ Weapon & King James, Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$85+ advance, 2ndsunday.com. La Mar Cebicheria Peruana, Pier 11/2. S.F. 397-8880.
- New Year's Eve 2014 with the Whooligan: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$25-\$40, johncolinsnye2014.eventbrite. com. John Colins, 138 Minna, S.F., 512-7493.
- **Nickies NYE:** w/ DJ I-Cue, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., free. Nickies, 466 Haight, S.F., 255-0300.
- NYE Explosion 2014: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$20+ advance. The Cosmo Bar & Lounge, 440 Broadway, S.F., 989-3434.
- NYE14: Toast a Manor Winter: w/ DJ D-Sharp & Romeo Reyes, Tue., Dec. 31, 10 p.m., \$40-\$60. Manor West. 750 Harrison, S.F., 240-7558.

#### **ACOUSTIC**

- Hot Buttered Rum, Vintage Grass: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$47-\$102. Sweetwater Music Hall, 19 Corte Madera Ave., Mill Valley.
- New Year's Eve Bluegrass Revue with High Country, Dix Bruce & Jim Nunally: Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$28.50-\$30.50. Freight & Salvage Coffee House, 2020 Addison, Berkeley, 510-548-7603.
- NYE with The Brothers Comatose, The Sam Chase, Rainbow Girls: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$30. Slim's, 333 11th St., S.F., 255-0333.
- Outlaw Hillbilly New Year's Eve with the Earl Brothers: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$10-\$15, shelbyashpresents.net. Plough & Stars, 116 Clement, S.F. 751-1122

#### JAZZ

- **Hubert Emerson:** Tue., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m., \$100. Zingari, 501 Post, S.F., 885-8850.
- Hubba Hubba Revue NYE: w/ music by Lee Presson & The Nails, plus burlesque by Fishnet Follies, Szandora LaVey, Flame Cynders, Rizzo Rogue, Mynx d'Meanor, Valerie Veils, Miss Honey Penny, Cyanide Cyn, Lady Satan, Miss Balla Fire, and more., Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$12-\$15. Uptown Nightclub, 1928 Telegraph, Oakland, 510-451-8100.
- **Jerry Oakley Trio:** Tue., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. Cafe Claude, 7 Claude, S.F., 392-3505.
- Slapsie Maxie's Speakeasy New Years: A Classic San Francisco Celebration: w/ Slim Jenkins, The B-Star Trio, The Rumble Strippers, 29th Street Swingtet, Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$30-\$50, www.oldtimey.net. Cafe Du Nord. 2170 Market. S.F. 861-5016.
- New Year's Eve with Lavay Smith, Chris Siebert, and Charlie Siebert: Tue., Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m., free. The Royal Cuckoo, 3202 Mission, S.F., 550-8667.
- New Year's Eve Gala on the USS Hornet: w/ swing music by 3 O'Clock Jump & Swingin' Blue Stars, Tue., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m., \$45-\$85. USS Hornet Museum, Pier 3, Alameda Point, Alameda, 510-521-8448.

#### **INTERNATIONAL**

- BombayLove NYE 2014: w/ DJs Karry, Aalok, and Sukh, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$39-\$75, bombayloveparty.com. 111 Minna Gallery, 111 Minna St., S.F., 974-1719.
- Pete Escovedo Latin Jazz Orchestra: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$85-\$125. SFJAZZ Center, 205 Franklin St.,

S.F., 866-920-5299.

- Fantasy Island NYE: Univision Radio's Second Annual New Year's Eve Celebration: Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$35+ advance, treasureislandnye.com. Treasure Island Event Venue, 401 California Ave., S.E. 765-0680.
- Mango NYE: Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., facebook.com/
- New Year's Eve at Peña Pachamama: w/ music by Eddy Navia & Pachamama Band and dance performances by Fogo na Roupa, Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$135. Pachamama Restaurant, 1630 Powell, S.F. 646-0018
- New Year's Eve Dance Fiesta with Orquesta La Moderna Tradición: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$25-\$35. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 510-849-2568
- New Year's Eve Gala 2014: w/ Orquesta Borinquen, Orquesta La Clave Del Blanco, DJ EMV, El DJ X, Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$20-\$50 advance. Cafe Cocomo, 650 Indiana. S.F. 824-6910.
- New Year's Eve with Macabéa: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m.

Jupiter, 2181 Shattuck, Berkeley, 510-843-8277.

NYE at Bissap Baobab: w/ DJs Marco, Bocard, Claude, and Kabila, Tue., Dec. 31, 10 p.m., \$15-\$50. Bissap Baobab, 3372 19th St., S.F., 826-9287.

Pura NYE 2014: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$20+ advance, puraclub.com. 1015 Folsom, 1015 Folsom St., S.F., 431-1200

#### **BLUES**

- Stan Erhart: Tue., Dec. 31, 10 p.m. Johnny Foley's Irish House, 243 O'Farrell St., S.F., 954-0777.
- **Curtis Lawson:** Tue., Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m. The Saloon, 1232 Grant, S.F., 989-7666.
- Jim Moore & Funktional Soul: Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Lou's Fish Shack, 300 Jefferson St., S.F., 771-5687. Joe Louis Walker: Tue., Dec. 31, 8 & 11 p.m., \$50-\$60. Biscuits and Blues, 401 Mason, S.F., 292-2583.

#### **CABARET**

Michael Feinstein: Tue., Dec. 31, 11 p.m., \$135-\$395. Feinstein's at the Nikko, 222 Mason St., S.F., 394-1111.

#### CLASSICAL

S.F. Symphony: New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$85-\$195. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness. S.F., 864-6000.

#### **COMEDY**

BATS New Year's Eve Special: Improv comedy scenes and songs by Rafe Chase, Dave Dennison, Kasey Klemm, Kimberly MacLean, Tim Orr, John Remak, Ken Robertson, and Regina Saisi., Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$35-\$40, improv.org. Bayfront Theater, 16 Marina, S.F., 474-6776.

Black Comedy Explosion 2013: Featuring Rickey Smiley, Tony Roberts, and more., Tue., Dec. 31, 10 p.m., \$49.75-\$89.75 advance. Paramount >>



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#### NEW YEAR'S EVE GUIDE 20

Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland, 510-465-6400. Greg Proops: New Year's Eve Stand-Up Show: The Smartest Man in the World returns to his hometown to headline two NYE laffathons., Tue., Dec. 31, 7:30 & 10 p.m., \$40-\$55. Punch Line, 444 Battery, S.F., 397-7573.

John Oliver: Because they celebrate New Year's Eve in England, too, y'know., Tue., Dec. 31, 7:30 & 10 p.m., \$45-\$60, Cobb's Comedy Club, 915 Columbus. S.F., 928-4320

Love & Taxes: Comical solo storytelling show by Josh Kornbluth.. Tue., Dec. 31, 7 & 10 p.m., \$35-\$45. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding, Alameda, 510-865-5060.

New Year's Eve Comedy Fiesta 2013: Featuring Marga Gomez, Dhava Lakshminaravanan, and Micia Mosely., Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$30-\$50. Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th St., S.F., 641-7657. Not Your Normal New Year's Eve: Jill Bourgue and Brian Copeland host their fifth annual comedy NYE with Laurie Kilmartin, Dan St. Paul, Brent Weinbach, Casey Ley, Kellen Erskine, and Joe Klocek., Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$45-\$199. Marines' Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter, S.F., 673-6672.

Third Annual Comedy Countdown: With Pete Holmes, Natasha Leggero, Bert Kreischer, Doug Benson, Rory Scovel, Moshe Kasher, and Imaginary Radio.. Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$20-\$111,50, Nob Hill Masonic Auditorium, 1111 California, S.F., 776-4702.

#### **FUNK**

Katdelic, Wil Blades Trio, DJ Be Smiley: Tue., Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m., \$40-\$50, Boom Boom Room, 1601 Fillmore, S.F., 673-8000.

#### **OTHER**

10th Anniversary New Year's Bash: Includes a champagne toast, DJ dancing, and 100 pinball games to play for free all night., Tue., Dec. 31. 7:30 p.m., \$20-\$35. Pacific Pinball Museum, 1510 Webster, Alameda, 510-769-1349.

28th Annual Japanese New Year Bell-Ringing Ceremony: Features a purification ritual, sutra chant, and 108 tolls of the 2,100-pound Japanese bronze bell from the 16th century., Tue., Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., free with museum admission. Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, 200 Larkin, S.F., 581-3500.

Belle of the Ball NYE Cruise: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$191.40. Hornblower Cruises, Pier 3, S.F., 788-8866. 14th Annual New Year's Eve Balloon Drop: Celebrate the changing of the calendar in other cities around the world as the Chabot marks the stroke of "midnight" with balloon drops at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 4 p.m. PST., Tue., Dec. 31, 11 a.m., 1 & 4 p.m., \$5 plus museum admission. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline, Oakland, 510-336-7300

Moonlight NYE Fireworks Cruise 2014: Aboard the San Francisco Spirit., Tue., Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m., \$195+ advance, newyearscruise.com. Hornblower Cruises, Pier 3, S.F., 788-8866.

New Year's Eve Family Fireworks Cruise: Aboard the Royal Prince (at Pier 43 1/2)., Tue., Dec. 31, 10 p.m., \$120-\$135 advance, newyearscruise.com. Red & White Fleet. The Embarcadero, S.F., 673-2900.

New Year's Eve Sleepover: Family-friendly party with the fishes., Tue., Dec. 31, 7 p.m., \$100-\$125. Monterey Bay Aquarium, 886 Cannery Row, Monterev. 831-648-4888.

Premier New Year's Eve Cruise: Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$247.50. Hornblower Cruises, Pier 3, S.F., 788-8866. Third Annual Speakeasy New Year's Eve Cruise 2014: Aboard the Fume Blanc Commodore., Tue., Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m., \$225+ advance, newyearscruise.com. Pier 40, Embarcadero at Townsend,

#### SOUL

M.O.M. NYE 2014: w/ The Will Magid Experiment featuring Aima the Dreamer, plus Motown on Monday DJs Gordo Cabeza, Timoteo Gigante, and the Captain Hat. Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$40, Local Edition, 691 Market St., S.F., 795-1975.

New Year's Eve at Bimbo's 365 Club: w/ Gold Star Soul Revue, Big Sandy & His Fly-Rite Boys, Gaucho, more, Tue., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$60-\$65, Bimbo's 365 Club, 1025 Columbus, S.F., 474-0365.

New Year's Eve Soul Dance Party: w/ DJs "Dangerous" Dave Tibbs & Erica "Wanna Hang Out?" Johnson, Tue., Dec. 31, 10 p.m., free. Bar Three Fifty-Five, 355 19th St., Oakland, 510-451-3355.

New Year's Eve Soul Party: w/ DJ Lucky, Paul Paul, and Phengren Oswald, Tue., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$20-\$25. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia, S.F., 552-7788.

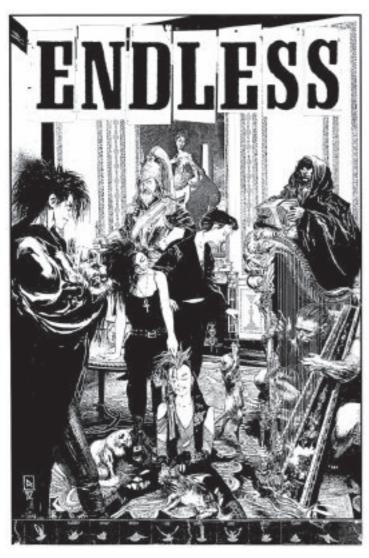
New Year's Eve with the California Honeydrops, DJ Harry Duncan: Tue., Dec. 31, 8 & 10:30 p.m., \$36-\$75. Yoshi's San Francisco, 1330 Fillmore, S.F., 655-5600.





# **Bedtime Stories**

Neil Gaiman lavs eves on the art of The Sandman for the first time.



By Jonathan Curiel

#### On a chilly San Francisco

afternoon, Neil Gaiman, the moptopped British screenwriter, novelist, and comic-book writer, steps out of his limousine on Mission Street and into his past. Gaiman isn't usually prone to uttering things like, "Oh wow," and "My gosh," and "Oh my God," but utter them he does on a tour of a new exhibit at the Cartoon Art Museum. It's a retrospective of The Sandman, Gaiman's epic comic-book series that helped change the comic-book industry and helped make Gaiman what he is today: The face of a genre of storytelling that is very dark, very smart, and often very humorous. It says everything that Stephen King is a fan of The Sandman, and it says everything that, even 25 years after its creation, The Sandman holds up as high art.

From the beginning, The Sandman was a mix of memorable writing and memorable images — a collaboration with notable artists like Mike Dringenberg, Sam Kieth, and Dave McKean, who were just as edgy as Gaiman was. That's why Gaiman is so awestruck as he walks around "Grains of Sand: 25 Years of The Sandman" and sees the vision that he launched in 1989. With a collection that includes original proofs of pre-publication pages, the Cartoon Art Museum is featuring the comic-book equivalent of Old Testament scrolls. Many of those scrolls, long held in private hands, are new even to Gaiman.

"It's like traveling in time," Gaiman says as he steps from one framed hanging to the other. "It's remarkable, seeing it all in one place. You forget that there were 2,000 pages of Sandman. I have almost never seen the

original art here. What I would get were black-and-white xeroxes, back in the day when there were xeroxes, or the art. ... Sometimes just the story was there."

The Sandman's central story centers around a lithe, brooding overseer named Dream, who wears dark robes and coats, and rules over the world of dreams. He's one of a septet of powerful god-like siblings, which includes his sister Death (who had her own couple of mini-series), and also Destiny, Destruction, Despair, Desire, and Delirium. They're a mixed-up family, especially Dream, who in the first issues of The Sandman is captured and held prisoner for 70 years. What's an angry god to do after his unjust incarceration? Revenge, of course, along with a bad attitude. In the series' third issue, titled "Dream a Little Dream of Me," Dream cares little about a dying, half-naked woman with infected skin and bedsores ("She will die soon. Painfully, I would imagine."), only to relent and ensure that her final moments are filled with dreams of love and desire. The artwork, which features odd panel sizes and noirish close-up shots of gore and danger, conveys the alienation and exasperation that fill Dream's life.

And then came groundbreaking issue eight from August 1989, "The Sound of Her Wings," which was drawn by Dringenberg and has Dream and Death hanging out in broad daylight, in what looks like New York's Washington Square Park. Pigeons fly about, and Dream feeds them. Teenagers play soccer nearby. Panel after panel, it's almost idyllic — a calm that's finally broken up when Death berates her brother for being so wistful, lamenting, and full of "could have beens," telling him, "You're utterly the stupidest, most self-centered, appallingest excuse for an anthropomorphic personification on this or any other plane!"

The Sandman, which was originally published by the DC Comics from 1989 to 1996 (Gaiman's series revived a forgotten older version), helped establish the modern market for comic books read by adults and those who wanted themes and plotlines meant for "mature audiences." Sex was in Gaiman's pages. Death, too, in all its dimensions. The character of Death was sexy, snappy, intellectual, and punkish. More than five million copies of The Sandman have been sold, and it's considered a fait accompli that a movie version will eventually >> p28





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#### Bedtime Stories from p27

emerge. In October, DC Comics began issuing a new Gaiman-written prequel series of that explains Dream's origins. To Gaiman, the whole series changed with issue No. 8.

"This is Mike [Dringenberg] changing the history of comics," Gaiman says as he looked at original pages of "The Sound of Her Wings." "This is where everything changed. Sandman up to that point was a horror comic that sort of recapitulated other DC horror comics. It existed in a very solid tradition. Sandman No. 8 — it found its voice. I found my voice. I think Mike found his voice. And we did something that was not like anything anybody had done before."

For The Sandman, Dringenberg's artistic influences included punk posters, band fliers, and "my own Dadaist tendencies towards visual non sequiturs," he says. "I felt a naturalistic approach would be better as a departure point to render the fantasia as truly fantastic."

By traditional museum standards of art, the art of comic books and graphic novels are often relegated to a lower tier, except in extreme cases, when someone like Roy Lichtenstein celebrates its power to enthrall and

entertain. Gaiman cringes at art divisions that marginalize work like The Sandman.

"I've always felt that graphic novels and comics either were or could be art. There's never been a feeling that they weren't art or that there was anything art-deficient," says Gaiman. "Comics exist in the area that fine artists have problems with, because it is obviously commercial. Fine artists have problems with illustrators, let alone with comics. I've talked to people who say, 'Well, I wish I could be taken seriously by the art establishment, but my stuff is considered more illustration, even though it's a huge success.' And I say, 'Oh, you guys don't know. Wait till you start working in comics.'

"The joy of comics is an art style in which panel follows panel follows panel. There are 2,000 pages of *Sandman*. If we probably average six panels a page, you're talking 12,000 drawings. That's what it took to create Sandman, and as far as I'm concerned, a lot of that — it's art."

#### "Grains of Sand: 25 Years of The Sandman'

 $Through\, March\, 16$  at the  $Cartoon\, Art$ Museum, 655 Mission St., S.F. \$4-\$8; 227-8666 or cartoonart.org

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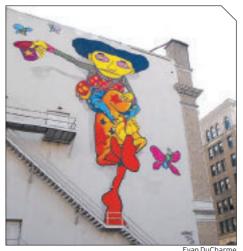
who call themselves OSGÊMEOS, which means "The Twins" in Portuguese, are real-life identical twins who have an affinity for scaling tall buildings and drawing distinctive figures with yellow faces. Global capitals including London, Lisbon, and Berlin have been locales for the duo's work, which has now found a home in San Francisco.

In September and October, OS-GÊMEOS did a residency at the Luggage Store on Market Street near Sixth. On the gallery's roof, visible

from the sidewalks below, they created a memorial to three dead street artists. Jade, who passed away this year, was a Bay Area graffiti maven who put his signature on everything public walls, street-parking signs, delivery trucks, you name it. He was fast with a spray can, and the new OSGÊMEOS figure holds a spray can in his giant right hand and wears a baseball cap that features Jade's signature lettering. Attached to his bag is a button that's a tribute to Tie, while the spray can features the name of Nekst — two other deceased graffiti artists. The work, which replaced a previous OSGÊMEOS painting, has become a new artistic high point of the mid-Market area.

During their residency, OS-GÊMEOS also put up — in collabora-

tion with Bay Area artist Mark Bode — a giant figure at 99 Turk Street. Like the tribute figure at 1007 Market, it's a swirl of yellow and other psychedelic colors. This one, though, has humor, with the figure holding a top hat while riding Cheech Wizard, a famous cartoon character created by Bode's father, the underground artist Vaughn Bode. Vaughn died in 1975, so both new OSGÊMEOS works are memorials to those who once did what OS-GÊMEOS are still able to do so well. J.C.



#### ARTS & CULTURE COLORFUL ONLINE DEBATING

#### **Liberal Bias**

#### I have an addiction to online

debating, though the word "debating" is itself debatable. Usually on the high school debate team you aren't called a "stupid libtwat fucktard" for your stance on tort reform. I of course tend to like being called that, because it allows me to unleash the verbal hounds right back on some right wing asshole in Tennessee who thinks that Martin Luther King, Jr. was a conservative, or that vaccinations cause autism, or that the '80s was the worst decade for music ever. That last one really is inexcusable. My theory is that I do this in lieu of playing Grand Theft Auto; for me it's the intellectual equivalent to mowing down hookers with my muscle car.

I spent the better part of yesterday furiously arguing on my smartphone with people who still believe that the Sandy Hook massacre in Newton was staged. Any sane person would turn and back away slowly from such insulting blather, but I get sucked in like a toddler to a faulty pool drain.

"You NEED to watch this," said one man, linking a YouTube video, the last refuge of idiots. His evidence of course is the fact that no one has ever seen pictures of a dead kindergardener from that day, because as you know, they always release such

things. "The media are in on it too!" spouted a woman named Marie, to which a sane debater shot back, "The media is keeping Marie from seeing dead children in coffins!" LULZ.

When faced with such inanity from people who so convinced they are right, how can we ourselves be convinced our views are the correct ones? When given that question I always turn to Stephen Colbert's best quote: "The facts have a liberal bias." Fact: MLK was far left on most issues. Fact: Vaccines are not linked to autism. Fact: Tears For Fears' 1983 album The Hurting is one of the single greatest records of all time.

I can't be the only person who turns to The Colbert Report for a dose of sanity. There have to be millions of people in small towns all across America who are surrounded by various incarnations of Michele Bachmann or Ted Nugent who need to tune in every night to recalibrate their brains.

The magic of the show lies in the satire. Colbert will always kick Jon Stewart's ass because he's not only wittier, but his shtick works on more levels. (Also, Stewart's incessant sycophantic ass-kissing of guests is really getting old.)

Satire as an art form predates Jesus, which could explain why the Immaculate Conception was really just a joke about Joseph's itty-bitty penis. The fuel of satire is truth; you couldn't stand before Henry VIII and make fun of his propensity for slicing through women's necks, but if you were his fool you could slay the room with your joke about how the king just loves to get head.

And so it is with Stephen Colbert. He says the same thing the rightwing nuts do, the words that make you wince and worry for the country's future. But then he twists them and makes them look as moronic as they are. It's doubly satisfying. He's the contemporary Archie Bunker, with Meathead as his foil, all rolled into one person.

All In The Family, however, was enjoyed by both sides of the political spectrum. Bigots and commie-haters could tune in and see themselves in Archie, and pinko flower children could get satisfaction from Michael

disputing Bunker's facts. Colbert doesn't work as smoothly. I doubt a conservative can watch that show and suspend all belief that the host isn't making a fool of them.

After Nelson Mandela died, the debate pages were clogged with

a whitewashing of that whole era. Mandela was a "terrorist" who loved to kill innocent white people. Ronald Reagan was a champion against apartheid. And then of course came the memorial in Africa, where Obama posed for that selfie and dared shake the hand of a communist. It was a busy day for me as I single-handedly tried to overturn everyone's warped views on the subject. I don't use You-Tube videos to back up my assertions; that would be wackadoodle. I prefer to just totally condescend to people and repeatedly tell them to go read a motherfucking book, you fucking brain-dead Nazi.

BY KATY ST. CLAIR

My blood pressure up, I closed my laptop and cued up my Colbert on the DVR. There it was, Colbert talking about the president shaking Raul Castro's hand at the memorial. "It's sending the wrong message," he quipped. "A message that we might talk to them again; and is Nelson Mandela's memorial really the place for reconciliation?" Boom.

Game, Set. Match: Brain recalibrated.

Katy.StClair@SFWeekly.com





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#### **Anchorman 2:** The Legend Continues

**REVIEWS** 

Rated PG-13. Opens Friday. It took nearly a decade for the legend to continue, but here it is, reuniting director Adam McKay, producer Judd Apatow, and stars Will Ferrell, Steve Carell, David Koechner, and Paul Rudd, who this time shall all buffoonishly negotiate the burgeoning cable news scene of New York City in the 1980s. After an ego-bruising split with his partner (Christina Applegate) and subsequent bottoming out, Ferrell's Ron Burgundy relocates his mojo via a graveyard-shift broadcast of common-denominator-lowering infotainment. This brings new rivalries with a professional nemesis played by James Marsden and a domestic one played by Greg Kinnear, not to mention a pitifully failed attempt at "breaking down the barriers of race by assimilation" with his new producer (Meagan Good). Fittingly, it all climaxes with a cacophonous, cameo-filled brawl between anchor teams from increasingly esoteric cable-TV territories. Like its predecessor, the movie has its share of inspired lunacy and quotable quips, plus some retrospective leisure-suited satire of what 24-hour news hath wrought on America. (At the very least, it hath wrought a culture in which promotion for this film all but requires a string of surreal stunt appearances by an in-character Ferrell on real news

> **Inside Llewyn Davis** Rated R. Opens Friday.

Given its title and its makers, the Coen brothers' new movie might conceivably be a 105-minute proctology joke, but actually it's an incisive, melancholy drama, with some funny bits, about the burgeoning folk-music scene in ear-

broadcasts.) It's all tied together, of course, by the requisite narration from

Kurtis. Jonathan Kiefer

golden-throated veteran newsman Bill

ly-1960s New York. (The very fine 1963 album Inside Dave Van Ronk is a clear inspiration here.) Oscar Issac plays the eponymous anti-hero, a true but willful talent who won't compromise, and this wintry week-in-the-life tracks him up and down Manhattan and halfway across the country as he struggles toward a personally acceptable version of success. It's a cautionary tale, but not condescending, and all the more moving for it; the Coens can be so good when they just get over themselves. The music is consistently fine, the design details expertly observed, and Isaac seems exquisitely situated between standout supporting performances by Carey Mulligan as a fellow scenester and combative lover, John Goodman as a bloviating jazzman, and F. Murray Abraham as a Chicago impresario. Mulligan's character in particular deserves a fuller arc than she gets, and some scenes' intentions seem fuzzy, but the filmmakers get away with that because it's all done with such extraordinary, experience-abetted confidence - and sincerity, which is nice, and a relief, to see from them. J.K.

**American Hustle** Rated R. Opens Friday at the AMC Van Ness and the AMC Metreon. Trying to set a somber drama against

faithful recreations of the inherently funny fashions and interior designs of the late 1970s would be tough, so it's a good thing that David O. Russell's *American Hustle* is played as a comedy. The picture follows a New York con man (Christian Bale) and his partner in scam (Amy Adams) as they're recruited by an ambitious FBI agent (Bradley Cooper) to bust crooked politicians, particularly a New Jersey mayor (Jeremy Renner). There's a lot of Goodfellas in the DNA, including dueling narrations, an ear-candy soundtrack full of the moribund music of the '70s, and a De Niro cameo, but American Hustle is ultimately about America finding its post-Watergate identity. This is symbolized by the amount of time the main characters spend working on their appearance — indeed, the key to the film's themes may be in the hair regimens - and the cast is clearly having a ball, playing broadly pitched Long Islanders who speak with their hands while gnawing on the scenery. If you listen closely, you can hear traces of Bale's infamous "Oh, good for you!" rant from the set of Terminator: Salvation, and it's also refreshing to see Renner invested in his character, giving American Hustle all the fucks he did not give Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters. Sherilyn Connelly



#### LISTINGS FILM

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#### OPENING

Go for Sisters The venerable Greek myth of Orpheus gets another cinematic workout in Go for Sisters. the unmistakably Sayles-esque new film by the great John Sayles, Parole officer Bernice (LisaGay Hamilton) must travel down to Tijuana to find her son Rodney, who's disappeared while dealing with shady characters in the border-crossing trade. She enlists the help of her childhood friend Fontayne (Yolanda Ross), fresh from prison on drug charges and trying to go straight, as well as lovably worldweary ex-cop Freddy (Edward James Olmos, also one of the film's producers). Sayles has always been a deeply humanistic filmmaker, showing a boundless compassion and respect for society's working-class people - in all societies, not just America - and Go for Sisters explores the relationship between Bernice and Fontayne, while also functioning as a tight little crime movie, complete with car chases and gunfights. The picture also considers an angle of the border-crossing trade that's seldom addressed in movies, of smugaling Chinese people from Mexico into America. Olmos, who has somehow never been in a Sayles film before this one in spite of being a natural collaborator, gets to show off his mad electric guitar skills — a perk of being a producer, no doubt, as well as of working with a director like Sayles. (S.C.)

Lenny Cooke If you work hard to achieve your goal but don't succeed, there's some solace in knowing that you tried your best. But if you fail without having put in the hard work, you may identify with the subject of Josh and Benny Safdie's often-heartbreaking documentary Lenny Cooke. In 2001, the 19-year-old Cooke was the top-ranked high school basketball player in the nation, gifted but undisciplined, more interested in the promise of fame and money than in improving his game. (His resentment at being told what to do by his coaches is palpable.) Cooke's career spirals after he gets passed over in the 2002 NBA Draft. and by his 30th birthday, his hoop dreams are long vanished. Lenny Cooke is both an admonishment of an inherently crooked system - consider the horribly cynical names of the basketball camps, like Five-Star Basketball Camp and ABCD Basketball Camp - and a study of one man's pain, and how that pain may have ultimately made him a better person. Some of the fly-on-the-wall moments feel a little staged, since the participants surely knew they were being filmed by multiple cameras, but Lenny Cooke's emotions always ring true, especially when the older Cooke finally confronts his past. If only his younger self would listen, and keep his eye on the ball. (S.C.)

Walking with Dinosaurs Barry Cooke and Neil Night ingale's Walking with Dinosaurs is a kids' movie, but kids deserve better than this quasi-educational story of a spunky young Pachyrhinosaurus (voiced by Justin Long) who does indeed spend a lot of time walking with dinosaurs, being one himself. Reportedly recorded a month before the film's release date, the dialog provided by Long, John Leguizamo, and others is full of modern slang which immediately dates the film ("You're about to get served!"), and the characters seemingly communicate via telepathy. which means we're at least spared having to watch



the photorealistic CGI dinosaurs move their mouths to match the endless stream of poop jokes. It's to the technicians' credit that the dinosaurs are convincing enough to make you wish they hadn't ruined the footage by dubbing cutesy teenage dialog over it, but then you remember that it's obviously not real footage, that all the onscreen creatures are composed of pixels, and the whole enterprise feels like even more of a wasted opportunity. Walking with Dinosaurs is just a mess across the board; a sidebar giving the vital stats of the Gorgosaurus hints at what the nicture could have been, but those occasional attempts at being genuinely educational are always overshadowed by an apparent desire to make kids dumber, (S.C.)

White Reindeer Zach Clark's dark comedy lobs an indie rebuke at our annual obligation of trudging through prefab holiday cheer only to wind up waist-deep in shredded gift wrap and feeling the undertow. In that regard, White Reindeer goes on for a while without quite being part of the solution, but eventually delivers the seasonal moviegoing

equivalent of double-spiking your eggnog. Anna Margaret Hollymon coolly glows as a bland suburban realtor who loves Christmas and her husband, but, during the fun familiar run-up to the big day, finds herself suddenly bereaved. Feeling hollowed out instead of holly-jolly, she's utterly at a loss. An online-shopping binge leads to fantasized fellowship with a sweater-model, and to hubby's incriminating browser history; soon she discovers, and befriends, the stripper (Laura Lemar-Goldsborough) with whom he had a fling. Helpfully, too, her sugar-cookie-sweet new neighbors (Lydia Hyslop, Joe Swanberg) greet the season with a swinging orgy. Clark overplays his widow-gone-wild hook, getting a tad too proud of the not-original suggestion that sickening Christmas-season consumption might actually be less healthy than a ladies' night of booze and blow. And his pacing seems unintentionally too dirge-like, even for a movie about working through grief. But ultimately he's done us a service; it's good to have available a film so genuinely sensitive to the particular emotional aches this season sometimes exacerbates. (J.K.)



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# PIZZA 3



# **Festival of Meats**

When visiting places of worship this season, forget ye not House of Prime Rib.

By Anna Roth

#### Everyone is happy at House

of Prime Rib. Probably because most of the gussied-up families and couples gathered in the old-fashioned, wood-paneled dining rooms are celebrating something: birthdays, holidays, anniversaries, promotions, bonuses, graduations, engagements. This is the kind of restaurant where you take a moment to savor the milestones of life. And House of Prime Rib, a setting for San Francisco celebrations since 1949, has an overwhelmingly positive vibe in the air, as though haunted by the ghosts of all this pleasantness.

Even the staff seems to be in a great mood, or is at least very good at faking it. Most of their job is performance, anyway. Chefs in allwhite and comically tall starched hats roam the dining room, pushing zeppelin-shaped stainless-steel domes on carts. Inside this dome is the eponymous prime rib, which the chefs carve tableside and adorn with creamed spinach and mashed potatoes with gravy. Our waitress, a chipper blonde originally from Russia, had her own theatrical flourishes when preparing the salad, garnishing a baked potato, and cutting the Yorkshire pudding.

Before open kitchens, this kind of tableside service was as good as food-prep theater got, and House of Prime Rib hearkens back to a time before dining out meant Googling ingredients and confronting your palate with unfamiliar flavors. The menu here is ridiculously simple. Your biggest decision is which of the four cuts of prime rib you feel like tackling: The smallest is the City Cut, at 8 to 10 ounces; the 11- to 13-ounce House of Prime Rib Cut and English cuts vary only in the way they're sliced; and "king-size appetites" can go for the massive 14- to 16-ounce King Henry VIII cut.

Along with meat, and what wine you're drinking, the only other choice you have to make involves selecting your included sides: creamed spinach or corn (both are all you could wish from them), mashed or baked potato (the former comes with gravy, the latter with bacon bits, sour cream, chives, and butter). Eggy Yorkshire pudding, a lackluster green salad, and rounds of hot sourdough also come included in the meal.

It's a multi-course feast, and this might be the key to the happiness that comes from being here. There's



something wonderfully freeing about feasting, about letting go and eating as much as you want, especially on food so comforting and primal. And because there's no hope of salvaging your diet, you might as well loosen your belt a notch and give in to indulgence. (The only alternative to prime rib on the menu is a daily fish dish, but he who orders fish at this temple to beef is in for a lonely meal.)

I was not there to celebrate anything in particular, but the magic of the place washed over me as soon as I walked in. It helped that the rooms are now all decked out for Christmas with wreaths and bows and lights. Reservations are highly recommended — I waited two hours for a table without one — though the lounge is not a bad place to wait it out, considering the crackling fire, the people-watching, and the \$9.50 martinis, which come with a little shaker of bonus booze, like a milkshake.

Finally, my party's name was called and it was time to sit down. The dining room is all big circular tables, red leather banquettes, dark wood wainscoting, and old-fashioned paintings of British foxhunts and manor houses and the like. The short menu has illuminated letters, like it's a long-lost manuscript. Water

is served in cut-crystal goblets. The décor is not exactly dowdy, but it's also not so old-school or Rat Pack-y it's hip, either — it just is. And the crowd, surprisingly middle-class considering the prices on the menu, isn't there for anything but the sheer enjoyment of being there.

I spent most of the meal watching the dirigible of prime rib glide through the dining room, willing it to come to me. It would hover next to a lucky table, chefs would carve off a slab of meat for others, and I felt my mouth watering like a cartoon cat's.

The dirigible eventually sailed over and docked at our table, and the House of Prime Rib's namesake dish did not disappoint. The meat was cooked a perfect medium-rare, with that velvety, chewy texture that the best steak gets. The sides were all exactly what they needed to be, which is to say excellent if you have a weakness for creamed spinach and buttery mashed potatoes, as I do. The meal was fine, but somehow, though it was the whole point of the restaurant, once it came it ceased to matter.

Still, we all ate and ate until we couldn't eat any more, and even after that we'd go back for one more forkful of spinach, or a shred of Yorkshire pudding dipped in gravy. By the end,

we were all sweating meat. After we finally came to our limit, we all sat there quietly, wondering if we should regret what we'd just done, and privately deciding that we didn't.

On the way out, well-lubricated from martinis, I tried to strike up a conversation with one of the meat carvers, but it turned out that he didn't speak much English. Later I woke up in the middle of the night with heartburn and the beginnings of a headache, absolutely parched from a sodium overload. It's best not to look too far behind the curtain at House of Prime Rib. Instead, focus on the feeling of well-being you get fleetingly from being there, a feeling that lines up neatly with the mantra of the season: peace on earth, goodwill towards men.

Anna.Roth@SFWeekly.com

#### **House of Prime Rib**

1906 Van Ness, 885-4605, houseofprimerib.net Hours: Mon-Thu 5:30-10 p.m., Fri 5-10p.m., Sat-Sun 4-10p.m.

The City Cut \$37.45 House Of Prime Rib Cut \$39.85 The English Cut \$39.85 King Henry VIII Cut \$42.85 Martinis \$9.50



FRESH EATS

## **Jerky Boys**

By Mary Ladd

#### S.F. has a new bar dedicated

to ... jerky. Last week in the Dogpatch, the Third Rail opened its doors with a menu featuring nine kinds of jerky made of tender-chewy beef, pork, and even a surprisingly interesting vegetable version. The spot is in the former Retox bar, and is from the Range crew: chef Phil West and bar guru Jeff Lyons.

Our veggie-centric pal smiled big at the vadouvan vegetable option, which melds carrots with caramelized shallot, curry, and turmeric. The jerky is priced at \$2.50 to \$3 an ounce, and we were glad to have a citrus-y Third Rail cocktail (Buffalo Trace bourbon, Lillet, honey, lemon, and orange bitters) to combat the heat of the Scotch Bonnet-infused Five Dot Ranch beef Jerk Jerky. Tasty, a little fiery, and a nice nibble while drinking.

Cocktails are divided into four types: aperitif, seasonal, citrus, and spirituous. The 601 is a lovely apertif, with Sutton Cellars vermouth, Prosecco, ginger, honey, and lemon; Double Date incorporates date-infused rye, George Dickel whiskey, Punt e Mes, cardamaro, and cinnamon bitters.

The space is inspired by classic train stations with a nod to mid-century modern design, and is the handiwork of Paxton Gate owner Sean Quigley and Lead Designer Todd Mc-Crea, whose other recent eatery projects include Flour + Water, Central Kitchen, and the Le Marais Bakery in the Marina. Candles give the space a subtle romantic feel, and the enormous clock in the entry is reminiscent of those at Union Station — the message being perhaps that it's time to let the night's journey begin (it only adds to the atmosphere to hear the MUNI T-line chugging by).

For a particularly sweet seat with a view, cozy up at the banquette tables directly across from the main bar and admire the space's art-deco type brackets inspired directly by the Golden Gate Bridge. Time will tell if this is a destination spot, but it's safe to say the Dogpatch has a cozy new bar to enjoy.

Third Rail

628 20th St., ThirdRailBarSF.com.

## S.F's New \$65 Burger

By Rhys Alvarado

#### If you have too much money

left over after the rent on your NEMA apartment clears, Umami

Joyce Goldstein. Free wi-fi. 2349 Market St. **RECENT OPENERS** 

Big, Public Works, and Jones comes a new SOMA cocktail bar. The craft cocktail lounge can host 100-plus people and has a working steel conveyer belt beneath its bartop, as well as a funky machine that makes Corpse Reviver #2's. 1337 Mission, oddjobsf.com.

The Torpedo Room: Chico's Sierra Nevada brewery comes to Berkeley for its first Bay Area taproom. 15 taps offer familiar offerings like Sierra's Pale Ale along with experimental brews; customers can get growlers to go; and there's a short menu of bar snacks. 2031 4th St., Berkeley, (510) 647-3439, sierranevada.com.

Three Potato Four: Someone finally came up with the idea to open up a french fry-only joint, offering a choice of potatoes, styles, and a dozen-plus dipping sauces. In a twist, all fries are baked in a convection oven, instead of fried. Also, the place is space-themed, 1051 Market, 3p4shop.com.











A weekly listing of new dining spots around town. To recommend a place, e-mail fresheats@sfweekly.com.

Alta CA: Daniel Patterson has brought market-driven, region-specific dishes to mid-Market in a new restaurant named after a 19th century newspaper. House specialties include Pacific black cod with broccoli, black garlic, and dumplings, Full bar serves barrel-aged cocktails, 1420 Market.

Archive Bar & Kitchen: SoMa has another watering hole, this one without a full liquor license but with cocktails made with vermouths, beers, and liqueurs, and a menu of pizza and charcuterie meant for sharing. 602 Mission.

Espressamente IIIy: The coffee conglomerate has touched down in the Castro to open the second Illy cafe in the city. Signature pours of espresso and single-origin beans will be there along with a food menu designed by California-cuisine gal Oddjob: From some of the guys who brought us



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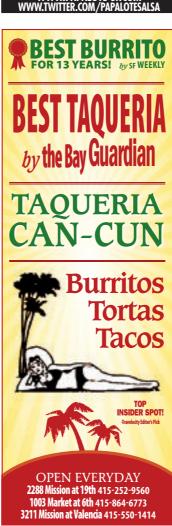
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Burger in SoMa has released its M.N.O. (Money's No Object) burger as part of its annual truffle menu.

Along with the slew of high rises breaking ground near the waterfront end of the SoMa, the \$65 M.N.O. is breaking new ground on burger prices. But if money ain't a thang, then this burger is callin' yo name.

The American staple that was once considered an inexpensive meal has been put on a whole new pedestal with Bryan Flannery Wagyu Beef, a port reduction, and freshly shaved white truffles. The M.N.O. is available Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays in December at the King Street location.

**Umami Burger** 

242 King, 904-8626, Umami.com.

## **Back Way** to Brenda's **Biscuits**

By Pete Kane

#### Anyone who's a fan of Bren-

da's French Soul Food — basically a subset of humans synonymous with "people who enjoy all that is glorious about being alive, and who also have the patience to wait an hour and forty-five minutes for a table" — will be delighted that its grab-and-go counterpart, Libby Jane Café, is now open just down Polk Street. (It's named for Libby Truesdell, life and business partner of Brenda Buenviaie).

It's a cute, black-and-white-andred-all-over spot with room for about six. There's a refrigerated case full of pimento-cheese sandwiches, granola parfait, and other lunch items, and a wall lined with strawberry jam, pickled okra, and the like. The vat of watermelon iced tea that has loomed over many a brunch table is there, and chicken-andouille gumbo will likely be a staple (along with other soups that rotate daily). Chicory coffee drinkers and Ritual partisans will be able to get their fix, too.

In a sense, there is nothing new here for anyone who's familiar navigating the terrain of the beignet flight and that oyster-laden Hangtown fry. Libby Jane is essentially the retail outlet for everything at Brenda's that needn't be eaten immediately. Sure, we're still waiting for the Brenda's Po Boy shop in the Fillmore that's been promised for some time, but since Brenda's is already the embodiment of perfection, we can ask for little else.

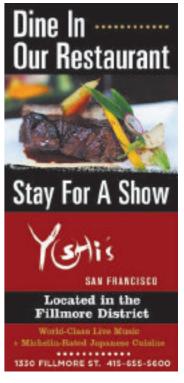
> Libby Jane Café 644 Polk St., 926-2540.



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# The Sound of Silence

#### The sound system was play-

ing "Carry on my Wayward Son" as I stepped through the wooden door and out of the cold night. It's easy to feel like a lost soul this time of year, when we are told to love all mankind but can't stop noticing how little they deserve it. Santa Claus isn't the Christmas myth most in need of debunking — goodwill toward men is.

The Fireside Bar in the Inner Sunset is exactly as advertised: a small room featuring a real fireplace and a fancy digital jukebox, both of which are incongruously surrounded by neon lights. The rest of the red and wood-paneled walls are plain to the point of being almost undecorated. There are a few framed pictures, but so few as to give the impression that someone quit early in the process and never found another art guy.

I sat down at the bar. Even with the music playing, voices carried, with conversations bouncing off the bare walls and landing everywhere. If they had put more art up, that effect would be muffled. I preferred it this way.

They had Chimay on tap. But when I asked which label it was, the bartender hedged.

"The regular kind," she said. "Yeah, that's not ..."

"It's the red label," she said. "Definitely the red."

I ordered one, and began to warm up.

I had planned to review a different bar this week. I'd arranged to meet some people at a place in the Mission. But when I walked in, it was packed wall to wall, two games were on TV, the music was pumping, and the servers were trying to shove their way through the crowd. "Hell no," I said, and walked out.

There's nothing wrong with a packed bar, but the more packed a bar is, the more it comes to resemble every other packed bar. What differences exist matter less when filtered through an indistinguishable mass of people. A tightly packed bar aspires to be a club. If you're going to have that many people in a room with loud music, why not dance?

The experience clubs aim for, in myth, legend, and pop music, is epitomized by the blackout: a night of such epic adventure and excess that it can barely be remembered, let alone talked about and described coherently. A

transcendent act of partying.

Which is great. But it's in the open stools and empty silences of a bar that unique experiences find room to step in. The kind you'll always remember.

The music had finished. A guy at the other end of the bar told the bartender he'd do something about it.

"Oh, I'm enjoying the sound of silence," she replied.

"Really?" he asked.

"Oh yeah. I like the sound of conversation a lot more." She paused. Hesitated. "Actually, I think what I really like is the sound of men laughing."

The bar chuckled. She looked happy. She's the rare type who can banter with her customers about anything — even politics and religion — without ever offending. I've always wished I could do that.

She walked over. "You want another Chimay?"

I put my hand over the glass. "You have the white label on tap, not the red."

She gave me a skeptical look. "You think?"

Do I ... think ... I know what Chimay tastes like?

I have traveled to the Scourmont Abbey in rural Belgium, where monks have brewed this beer for 150 years. When the monks only wanted to talk about Christ, I snuck past them into the inner grounds to see the vats and the casks. That night I got so drunk off the fruits of their devotion that I lay on the floor talking

to myself in the third person, as though an angel were speaking through me. Then I blacked out.

"Yes," I said. "I'm certain."

BENJAMIN

"You're probably right. I don't really remember," she said. "Sorry. What else can I get ya?"

She'd handled that perfectly — just the right amount of apology and casual dismissiveness. She was bullet-proof behind a bar.

I told her to make me a drink that was the essence of her. She laughed. "That's a Jack and a beer. Is that really what you're going for?"

"Make me something special."

She came back with a ginger beer and bourbon, with a dash of triple sec, deliciously balanced. Suddenly James Brown was coming through the sound system. I felt good.

But a fireplace and beer can only keep out the chill and the dark for so long. Soon I left the laughter of men behind. It's as easy to be a lost soul leaving a bar as it is walking into one. Carry on.

**Fireside Bar** 603 Irving, 731-6433.

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# **That One Guy**

Parker Gibbs gives hell to his local musician friends, but once a year he also gives back.

By Ian S. Port

#### It's a Thursday night at the

Chapel, and members of Thee Oh Sees are shuffling around onstage, setting up their gear before a sold-out show. Over the blaring house music, you can hear the voice of a middle-aged man standing in the crowd near the  $\bar{\text{edge}}$  of the stage, shouting threats and mean jokes at Thee Oh Sees frontman John Dwyer. The man has a drink in his hand, and he's surrounded by two or three ladies who also have drinks in their hands, and who are laughing thoroughly as this guy sends some pretty profane statements in Dwyer's direction.

Suddenly, after building his tower of amps and speakers, Dwyer turns around, leans over, grabs the man's cheeks with both hands, and plants a big fat kiss on his lips.

Then they all laugh like they've never seen anything funnier.

The man Dwyer kissed is Parker Gibbs, a 51-year-old record nerd, DJ, former band manager, longtime San Francisco resident, and jocular friend to seemingly everyone in this city's underground rock 'n' roll scene.

Gibbs is the kind of person you see at every show, or at least at every show that the city's indie illuminati deem important. He's there when Thee Oh Sees play. He's there when Shannon and the Clams play. When Mikal Cronin plays. When Ty Segall plays. When Sonny Smith or Kelley Stoltz play. Certain shows are just those kind of shows, and you know because Gibbs is there, alongside the friends or significant others of beloved local musicians, proprietors of certain local vintage shops, former alt-weekly music editors, and so on.

But Gibbs is unique among them, because he's been here since '89, and because he was driving down to shows in the city even before he lived here, as a college student in Chico, and often driving back that same night. He saw My Bloody Valentine back then. He saw Big Black and the Wipers — on the same bill. He pretty much saw everybody. And yet the reason Parker Gibbs — a married white dude with thick-rimmed glasses who by day does sales and business development for a tech start-up — the reason he gets to give John Dwyer shit and get away with it and the reason many of his friends are twenty- or thirty-something musicians is because he really likes what's happening now.



"You don't act like you're one of those old guys, who are like, 'Well, when I used to ...' or, 'Here's how it used to be ...," Gibbs says over drinks at Casanova Lounge, one of his haunts. "It's like, no. It's just as exciting today as it was back then. It's just different."

Gibbs is not a musician. His creative outlet is DJing - either between sets at shows, where he often runs into and befriends the artists or at bars like the Make-Out Room, which is a hangout for local rockers. He performs as DJ FOODCOURT, a name he chose "because it's first and foremost the stupidest DJ name ever ... but it's also encompassing of the kind of stuff I play. I have no problem playing everything from Black Flag to Steely Dan, which would be a food court." He has a regular first-Thursday and bimonthly gig at the Make-Out Room, and he DJs lots of private parties, like Pavement guitarist Scott "Spiral Stairs" Kannberg's Australian

Another reason for Gibb's popularity: He is very funny, often at his friends' expense. "He's the nicest man in the world," says old pal and musician Mark Eitzel. "He's also the meanest. He's the only one I know that can

get away with the most politically incorrect shit in the world."

Every year, Gibbs throws a holiday party at the Make-Out Room that shows off his signature style, where he gets his musician buddies together and has them all play a revue-style show with a house band, performing covers, holiday songs, or originals. In between performers, Gibbs gets on the mic and, as he says, "berates people." Lots of drinks are had. He calls it "The GIBBSMO Holiday Craptacular," a name for which he's gotten some crap. "At the beginning," he says, "people didn't like the name: 'I don't like the name "Crapctacular," it just sounds kinda mean.' I'm like, 'Fuck you guys. That's what it is. We're throwing a bunch of shit on the wall and seeing what sticks. It's fantastic and people love it."

Indeed, the Craptacular is now in its 12th consecutive year, with a lineup that features Eitzel and Kelley Stoltz, with Marc and the Casuals as the house band. The show usually sells out. It's a benefit, with the door money going to the S.F. Food Bank; attendees also have to bring a nonperishable item. Gibbs tries to pay the musicians a stipend for their time, but most turn it down. "I just ply 'em

with drink tickets," he says. "You keep the talent happy."

Given that, things do get messy. Gibbs recalls one show that went for four hours, and another time a band left because it was going to have to play half an hour later than planned. ("What'd you expect?" he says about that one.) Sometimes it can be hard to remember exactly how a show went. "The problem is, every year we get drunk and forget," he laughs. "I always go through my notes, like, 'Didn't they play the year before?"

But it doesn't really matter. The check goes to the Food Bank, the musicians play, and a certain corner of the San Francisco music scene convenes for one last party before everyone goes their separate ways for the holiday. And Parker Gibbs, the San Francisco rock scene's meanest friend, has had his fun for one more half-remembered night.

The GIBBSMO Holiday Craptacular, with Marc and the Casuals, Mark Eitzel, Kel-ley Stoltz, Paula Frazer, and more.

7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, at the Make-Out Room. \$15 w/can of nonperishable food; makeoutroom.com





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## MUSIC SIZZLE & FIZZLE

Highs and lows from thé last week in S.F. music.

#### S1771 F

■ Local rap godfather E-40 put out three albums just last week, bringing his total album count over the last three years to an astonishing 12, if you count the two he released last year with Too \$hort. When this man brags that he's on top of the game, you really can't dispute him



Heat's anthem "Home" celebrates the Niners' last year at the 'Stick.

- It's the last season for the Niners at Candlestick, and the rap video odes have started to pour in. "Home," by Sunset MC Heat, features awesome footage of the tailgate crowds pouring one out, and the lyrics recall notable moments in 'Stick history, from the world-dominating '80s seasons to that one Monday night when all the lights went out.
- Jeopardy finally proved its coolness by coming up with an alt-rock category - although a suspiciously easy one at that. Sample question: "The punnily titled 'Diane Young' is a 2013 alt hit for this 'undead' band." For \$600, even our Michael Bolton-loving parents could answer that

#### F1771 F

- Ventured to the new Audio Discotech on 11th Street and found ourselves in a tangle of velvet ropes and bottle service areas. We quickly decided it wasn't our scene. The place needed a heavy dose of scruffy NYC party-rocker Juan Maclean, which it finally got.
- The small Mission District Savanna Jazz Club is for sale, which probably doesn't bode well for its survival. The apartment building and club at 2937 Mission St. is on the market for \$1.74 million, but act fast if you want it. And please keep live music there if you get it.
- Can we exclude R. Kelly from everything until the end of time? If his ultra-rapey new video for "Cookie" isn't bad enough - and it is - there was a timely reminder this week of the court-documented allegations of Kelly's unconscionable sexual relationships with dozens of underage girls. It's clear this man is a monster.

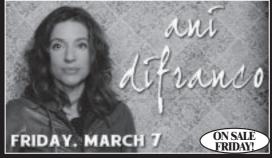
For full versions of the above stories and much more about S.F. music, check out All Shook Down, our music blog, at www.sfweeklv.com/shookdown.



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## European Sheen

Pezzner's impressionistic deep-house is so smooth, you'll swear he's not from Seattle.

#### By Derek Opperman

Rain-swept Seattle might not be the first place that comes to mind when electronic dance music is concerned, but the city has long harbored a small yet prolific underground. One of this scene's central figures is David Pezzner, a dance producer who's been working since the late '90s, first producing tech-inflected house via his involvement in old-school outfit and DJ duo Jacob London, and then later as Pezzner, his more impressionistic and experimental solo alias. In November, he released Last Night in Utopia, his second LP under the Pezzner moniker, which represents a maturing of his deep house sound: 15 tracks unified by sharp sound design, compelling melodies, and clever use of found samples.

Much of the underground American dance music of the last year deals in a kind of lo-fi abrasiveness. By contrast, Pezzner's productions come with a polished, high-fidelity sheen that allows the tracks to emerge with three-dimensional clarity. In many ways his stuff sounds European, or at least informed by continental sensibilities toward dance music, where production for clarity on the more ubiquitous hightech sound systems warrants a different approach. The title track, for instance, runs a flurry of chopped, soulful vocal samples above crystal-clear organ swells, percolating rhythms, and a bubbling synth. Each element fits perfectly in the mix like

a completed jigsaw puzzle: The picture is there, but the edges of each piece are invisible.

Part of that European sensibility is due to Pezzner's extensive European tour schedule. He produced the majority of the new album between gigs in Europe, even renting an apartment in Malta as a home base. In an interview with Chicago's 5 Magazine, he even goes so far as to say that he had certain European dancefloors in mind: "When I write, it's hard not to close my eyes and picture how [my tunes] will go over on the dancefloor. I'll picture myself in a club like Panorama Bar, and imagine myself in the audience."

The influence of the dancefloor can also be felt in the way the album segues between its tracks. This isn't an LP of disconnected elements; instead, each song melds into the

next, like a DJ set. This means there's a constant narrative flow, with rhythmic interludes leading to more full-featured peaks: "Bell and Whistle" is a hypnotic workout with tense, flanged drum sounds that whir above pulsing monophonic synthesizer hits. "Give It Up," however, realizes a peak, with a round, booming round kick drum that's lifted by the soulful crooning of '90s garage house vocalist Sam Mollison.

Overall, Last Night in Utopia is a transportive experience. Considering Pezzner plays much of his original material in his DJ sets, you can expect something similar when he headlines at high-fidelity SoMa hot spot Audio Discotech this Friday.

#### Pezzner

9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20, at Audio Discotech. \$10; audiosf.com.

#### OTHER WORTHY PARTIES THIS WEEK

#### So Stoked for Christmas at Oakland Metro Operahouse, 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20. \$15-\$25; oaklandmetro.org

If a night of Kandi-coated, PLUR-heavy raving is what you desire, you'd be hardpressed to find a better party than So Stoked's Christmas edition. This month, the crew heads to Oakland for an all-ages blowout featuring a soundtrack of uptempo trance and aggressive hardcore.

#### Disco Knights presents Wolf + Lamb at Monarch, 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20. \$15-\$20; monarchsf.com

New York house DJ duo Wolf + Lamb have a reputation for being dance music's goofballs. But while they might not take themselves too seriously, it's obvious that they're dead serious about partying. For the past few years they've been at the fore of a new sound in East Coast house music that uses soulful vocals and techy loops for massive dancefloor effect.

#### Deep Blue and Public Works present tINI at Public Works, 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21. \$10-\$20; publicsf.com

When it comes to European party DJs, it's hard to beat tINI. She spins a melodic brand of house music that's as deep and techy as her releases, like the chugging anthems on 4th Street, her latest on Supplemental Facts. She's usually found spinning in Ibiza superclubs, which means she'll feel right at home behind the booth in the main room.

#### The Show: Holiday Party featuring Strategik at The EndUp, 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21. \$10-\$20; theendup.com

There aren't a whole lot of late-night options in San Francisco. In fact, if you're looking to party from 10 p.m. to 10 a.m., there's only one place for you: The EndUp. This Saturday, the venue will feature a special edition of The Show: a 12-hour marathon of continuous dancing featuring the electrohouse talents of local DJ crew Strategik.



Club listings are offered as a free service to SF Weekly readers and are subject to space restrictions. To have a listing added, contact Clubs Editor John Graham by email (John.Graham@ sfweekly.com), fax (777-1839), or mail (225 Bush St. 17th, Floor, S.F., CA 94104). To change an existing listing, call 536-8147. Deadline is noon Tuesday for the following week's issue. Our Concerts section lists major shows and special events. Call individual clubs for show details. Except as noted, all phone numbers are in the 415 area code. Listings rotate regularly, as space allows. Our complete listings of local clubs - searchable by keyword, date, and genre - are available online.

#### **CLUBS**

#### **WEDNESDAY 12/18**

#### ROCK

Bottom of the Hill: 1233 17th St., San Francisco. Holograms, TV Ghost, G. Green, 9 p.m., \$10-\$12.

Brick & Mortar Music Hall: 1710 Mission, San Francisco. The Sweet Bones, Sam Code & The Gums, Edge City Ruins, Johns, Jack Graves, 9 p.m., \$5-\$7.

Cafe Du Nord: 2170 Market, San Francisco, MoonFox. Spider Heart, Lady Stardust, DJ Neil Martinson, 8:30 p.m., \$8.

#### CONCERTS

#### **WEDNESDAY 12/18**

Chance the Rapper: W/ DJ Rashad, DJ Spinn, 8 p.m., \$22,50-\$25. The Regency Ballroom, 1290 Sutter, San Francisco.

Icona Pop: W/ K.Flay, Sirah, 8 p.m., \$25-\$35 advance. The Fillmore, 1805 Geary, San Francisco.

Meals on Wheels of San Francisco Benefit Concert with Michelle Schmitt: 8 p.m., \$20-\$100. SFJAZZ Center, 205 Franklin St., San Francisco.

Megadeth: W/ Fear Factory, Nonpoint, 8 p.m., \$42.50-\$59.50. Warfield Theatre, 982 Market, San Francisco.

S.F. Symphony: Colors of Christmas: W/ Peabo Bryson, CeCe Winans, Melissa Manchester, and Ruben Studdard, 8 p.m., \$15-\$93. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness, San Francisco.

Thee Oh Sees: Coalition on Homelessness coat drive & benefit with Tv Segall, Synthetic ID, BreakArts, DJ Britt Govea, 8 p.m., \$16, Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell, San Francisco.

#### THURSDAY 12/19

City Church Little Big Band: Go Tell it! - Jazzy Carols: 7:30 p.m., \$25-\$45, SFJAZZ Center, 205 Franklin St., San Francisco.

S.F. Symphony: Handel's Messiah: 8 p.m., \$15-\$156. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness, San Francisco.

Third Eve Blind: 8 p.m., \$39.50-\$52 advance. The Fillmore, 1805 Geary, San Francisco,

#### FRIDAY 12/20

Flosstradamus: W/ Alex Young, DJ Spinz, 9 p.m., \$25-\$30. Warfield Theatre, 982 Market, San Francisco

Los Lobos: W/ La Santa Cecilia, 9 n.m., \$42,50-\$55.50 advance. The Fillmore, 1805 Geary. San Francisco.

Lucent Dossier Experience: 9 p.m., \$22,50-\$25. The Regency Ballroom, 1290 Sutter, San Francisco.

The Mother Hips: W/ The Donkeys, 9 p.m., \$23. Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell, San Francisco.

Rod Piazza & The Mighty Flyers: 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m., \$24. Biscuits and Blues, 401 Mason,

S.F. Symphony: All Is Bright: Christmas matinee., 2 p.m., \$15-\$75. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness, San Francisco.

S.F. Symphony: Handel's Messiah: 8 p.m., \$15-\$156. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness, San Francisco

Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers: 7:30 p.m., \$25-\$55. SFJAZZ Center, 205 Franklin St.. San Francisco.

#### SATURDAY 12/21

From the Bay to Bahia: W/ Loco Bloco, 8 p.m., \$5-\$20. Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th St., San Francisco.

KMEL Holiday House of Soul: W/ Jeremih. Mario. Sevyn Streeter, Adrian Marcel, Netta Brielle, 8 n.m., \$29.50-\$49.50, Warfield Theatre, 982 Market, San Francisco.

Los Lobos: W/ Zigaboo Modeliste, 9 p.m., \$42,50-

\$55.50 advance. The Fillmore, 1805 Geary. San Francisco.

The Mother Hips: 9 p.m., \$23. Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell, San Francisco.

San Francisco Renaissance Voices: A Festival of Lessons & Carols: 7:30 p.m., free. Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1329 Seventh Ave San Francisco

Arturo Sandoval: 7:30 p.m., \$35-\$85. SFJAZZ Center, 205 Franklin St., San Francisco.

S.F. Symphony: All Is Bright: Christmas matinee., 2 p.m., \$15-\$75. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness, San Francisco.

S.F. Symphony: Handel's Messiah: 8 p.m., \$15-\$156. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness. San Francisco.

#### **SUNDAY 12/22**

Dave Koz & Friends: Christmas Tour 2013: W/ Oleta Adams, Jonathan Butler, Keiko Matsui. 8 p.m. Warfield Theatre, 982 Market, San Francisco.

Holiday Fest: A Gift Worth Giving: LightHouse for the Blind benefit concert with Goapele. Peter Chung, Aisea Taimani, Lauren Hulbert, Cheza Nami, DJ Smuve, and more, 6 p.m., \$30-\$40. Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon, San Francisco.

Magnificat: A Venetian Christmas Mass: 4 p.m., \$30-\$35, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell. San Francisco.

Ragazzi Continuo: Mary Had a Baby - A Christmas Celebration: 2:30 p.m., \$18-\$20. Trinity Episcopal Church, 1668 Bush, San Francisco.

San Francisco Girls Chorus: Hark, the Herald Angels Swing!: W/ The Marcus Shelby Quintet... 8 p.m., \$30-\$65. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness. San Francisco.

S.F. Symphony: 'Twas the Night: Carols and sing-alongs with the S.F. Symphony Chorus and brass section., 4 p.m., \$15-\$75. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness, San Francisco.

Windham Hill Winter Solstice Concert: W/ Barbara Higbie, Liz Story, Lisa Lynne, George Tortorelli, and Aryeh Frankfurter., 4 p.m., \$25-\$60. SFJAZZ Center, 205 Franklin St., San Francisco.

#### **MONDAY 12/23**

S.F. Symphony: 'Twas the Night: Carols and sing-alongs with the S.F. Symphony Chorus and brass section., 8 p.m., \$15-\$75. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness, San Francisco.

#### **TUESDAY 12/24**

The Brian Setzer Orchestra: Christmas Rocks: 8 n.m., \$49.50-\$69.50. Warfield Theatre, 982 Market, San Francisco.

San Francisco Gav Men's Chorus: Shine: The SFGMC's "brightest holiday show ever" with quest singers Marina Harris and Matt Alber, 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., \$25-\$35. The Castro Theatre, 429 Castro, San Francisco.

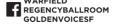
S.F. Symphony: 'Twas the Night: Carols and sing-alongs with the S.F. Symphony Chorus and brass section., 11 a.m., \$15-\$75. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness, San







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The Chapel: 777 Valencia St., San Francisco. Holidaze with The Blank Tapes, The Electric Magpie, The Spiral Electric, Assateague, 8 p.m., \$12.

El Rio: 3158 Mission, San Francisco. Neon Anyway, The Threads S.F., Clementine's Day, 8 p.m., \$5.

Hemlock Tavern: 1131 Polk, San Francisco. The Kaizoku, Largesse, 8:30 p.m., \$5.

Hotel Utah: 500 Fourth St., San Francisco. The Shams Eire, The Guverment, Another Tangent, Paul Magill,

The Knockout: 3223 Mission. San Francisco. The Riflemen, Nasty Christmas, Names, Richard Toomer, 9:30 p.m., \$6.

Milk Bar: 1840 Haight, San Francisco. Owl Paws, Yassou Benedict, Fell Runner, Sunhaze, 9 p.m., \$5.

#### DANCE

Night Out for the Fellas," 9 p.m., free.

Cat Club: 1190 Folsom, San Francisco. "Bondage A Go Go," w/ DJs Damon, Tomas Diablo, & guests, 9:30 n.m. \$5-\$10.

Club X: 715 Harrison, San Francisco, "Electro Pop Rocks: The EPR Nightmare Before Christmas," 18+ dance night, 9 p.m., \$15 advance.

The EndUp: 401 Sixth St., San Francisco, "Tainted Techno Trance." 10 p.m.

F8: 1192 Folsom St., San Francisco, "Housepitality." w/ Guillaume & The Coutu Dumonts, Dave Aju, Tyrel Williams, Mike Bee, 9 p.m., \$5-\$10.

Lookout: 3600 16th St., San Francisco, "What?," w/ resident DJ Tisdale and guests, 7 p.m., free.

Make-Out Room: 3225 22nd St., San Francisco, "Burn Down the Disco," w/ DJs 2shy-shy & Melt w/U, Third Wednesday of every month, 9 p.m., free,

Q Bar: 456 Castro, San Francisco. "Booty Call," w/

Juanita More, Joshua J, guests, 9 p.m., \$3.

Showdown: 10 Sixth St., San Francisco, "Nokturnal," w/ DJs Coyle & Gonya, Third Wednesday of every month, 9 p.m., free.

#### HIP-HOP

Skylark Bar: 3089 16th St., San Francisco. "Mixtape Wednesday," w/ resident DJs Strategy, Junot, Herb Dias. & auests. 9 p.m., \$5.

Slate Bar: 2925 16th St., San Francisco, "Special Blend," w/ resident DJs LazyBoy & Mr. Murdock, 9 p.m., free.

#### ACOUSTIC

Cafe Divine: 1600 Stockton, San Francisco, Craig Ventresco & Meredith Axelrod, 7 p.m., free.

Plough & Stars: 116 Clement, San Francisco, Annie Corbett, 9 p.m.



For tickets & current show info:

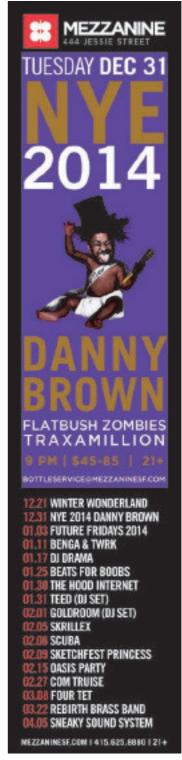
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 $(\mathbf{tp})$ 

The Rite Spot Cafe: 2099 Folsom, San Francisco. Quinn DeVeaux, 8:30 p.m., free.

#### JAZZ

Amnesia: 853 Valencia, San Francisco, Gaucho, Eric Garland's Jazz Session, The Amnesiacs, 7 p.m.,

Burritt Room: 417 Stockton St., San Francisco, Terry Disley's Rocking Jazz Trio, 6 p.m., free.

The Independent: 628 Divisadero, San Francisco. Charlie Hunter & Scott Amendola Duo, DJ Harry Duncan, 8 p.m., \$20

Jazz Bistro at Les Joulins: 44 Ellis, San Francisco. Charles Unger Experience, 7:30 p.m., free.

Savanna Jazz Club: 2937 Mission, San Francisco. "Cat's Corner," 9 p.m., \$10.

Sheba Piano Lounge: 1419 Fillmore, San Francisco. Fran Sholly, 8 p.m.

Top of the Mark: One Nob Hill, 999 California, San Francisco. Ricardo Scales, Wednesdays, 6:30-11:30 p.m., \$5.

Zingari: 501 Post, San Francisco. Anya Malkiel, 7:30 p.m., free.

#### INTERNATIONAL

Bissap Baobab: 3372 19th St., San Francisco, Timba Dance Party, w/ DJ WaltDigz, 10 p.m., \$5.

Cafe Cocomo: 650 Indiana, San Francisco, "Bachatalicious," w/ DJs Good Sho & Rodney, 7 p.m., \$5-

Yoshi's San Francisco: 1330 Fillmore, San Francisco. VOENA: Voices of the Season, 7 p.m., \$14-\$21.

#### **BLUES**

Biscuits and Blues: 401 Mason, San Francisco. HowellDevine, 8 & 10 p.m., \$15.

The Royal Cuckoo: 3202 Mission, San Francisco. Big Bones & Chris Siebert, 7:30 p.m., free.

The Saloon: 1232 Grant, San Francisco. Leah Tysse,

#### SOUL

Boom Boom Room: 1601 Fillmore, San Francisco. "Soul Train Revival," w/ Ziek McCarter, Third Wednesday of every month, 9:30 p.m., \$5.

Elbo Room: 647 Valencia, San Francisco. Myron & E, New Love Soul Revue, The Selecter DJ Kirk,

#### THURSDAY 12/19

#### ROCK

Boom Boom Room: 1601 Fillmore, San Francisco. Caught a Ghost, The Coffis Brothers & The Mountain Men, 9:30 p.m., \$8-\$10.

Bottom of the Hill: 1233 17th St., San Francisco. Good Riddance, Cobra Skulls, Western Addiction. 9 p.m., \$13-\$15.

Brick & Mortar Music Hall: 1710 Mission, San Francisco. Midnight Nasties, Working from Home, 9 p.m., \$5-

DNA Lounge: 375 11th St., San Francisco. Blood on the Dance Floor, Davey Suicide. The Relapse Symphony, Haley Rose, Lionfight, Kat Haus, 7 p.m., \$17-

S.F. Eagle: 398 12th St., San Francisco. Victory & Associates, Sit Kitty Sit, Winter Teeth, The Secret Secretaries, 9 p.m., \$8.

Hemlock Tavern: 1131 Polk, San Francisco. Everyone Is Dirty, Frozen Folk, Light Thieves, 8:30 p.m., \$6. Hotel Utah: 500 Fourth St., San Francisco, Manzanita



**Rock Curio Shop** 

#### Trevor Owsley

## THE GROWLERS

With the Abigials. 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 20-21, at the Independent. \$17-\$20; theindependents f.com

 $Tarnished\ oil\ lamps, smoke-sputtering\ vintage\ Fords, yellow-labeled\ whis-sputtering\ vintage\ Fords, and the specific properties of the properties of$ key bottles, and rusty six-strings: none of these have anything to do with the Growlers' music per se, but they all feel like they should. The SoCal quintet churns out psychedelic R&B doused in reverb, laced with freakshow organ, and led by the warbling, otherworldly vocals of Brooke Nielsen — a sound the band calls "beach goth." Most of the songs off its duo of 2013 releases, the album *Hung at Heart* and the newish EP *Guilded Pleasures*, come off more warm and weird than cold and scary, though - an easygoing blend of '60s garage and psychedelia, with warped hooks lurking under the dust. Give "Someday" all of 30 seconds, and its merseybeat groove will get deep into your veins, not unlike some ancient trinket you found in a curio shop and just had to have. Ian S. Port





Falls, Ash Thursday, 9 p.m., \$7.

Milk Bar: 1840 Haight, San Francisco, Should We Run. The Tropics, Gotaway Girl, 8:30 p.m., \$8.

#### DANCE

Audio Discotech: 316 11th St., San Francisco. "Trap City," w/ Kennedy Jones, UltraViolet, Harris Pilton, Napsty, Lé Swndle, more, 10 p.m., \$10-\$20.

The Cafe: 2369 Market, San Francisco, "iPan Dulce!." 9 p.m., \$5.

Cat Club: 1190 Folsom, San Francisco. "Throwback Thursdays," '80s night with DJs Damon, Steve Washington, Dangerous Dan, and guests, 9 p.m., \$6 (free before 9:30 p.m.).

The Cellar: 685 Sutter, San Francisco, "XO," w/ DJs Astro & Rose, 10 p.m., \$5.

Elbo Room: 647 Valencia, San Francisco, "Afrolicious," w/ DJs Pleasuremaker, Señor Oz, and live guests,

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9:30 p.m., \$5-\$8.

F8: 1192 Folsom St., San Francisco, "Beat Church," w/ Knowa Lusion, Tiger Fresh, Spekt1, Releece, Morzfeen, more, 10 p.m., \$5-\$10.

Harlot: 46 Minna, San Francisco. Marques Wyatt, 9 p.m. Madrone Art Bar: 500 Divisadero, San Francisco. "Night Fever," 9 p.m., \$5 after 10 p.m.

Monarch: 101 6th St., San Francisco, "Together," Typhoon Haivan benefit with Worthy, Atish, Bells & Whistles, Elz, Papa Lu, Joey Alaniz, DJ Bluz, DJ Vinroc, Mr. E, The Whooligan, more, 7 p.m., donation.

Neck of the Woods: 406 Clement St., San Francisco. Blaus, on the downstairs stage, 10 p.m. continues through Dec. 26. free with RSVP.

Rickshaw Stop: 155 Fell. San Francisco. "Popscene." w/ Wild Cub. Aaron Axelsen. 10 p.m., \$13-\$15.

Ruby Skye: 420 Mason, San Francisco. "Awakening,"

w/ Adrian Lux, 9 p.m., \$20-\$30 advance.

Vessel: 85 Campton, San Francisco, "Base," w/ DJs Alessandro, Rooz, and John Kaberna, 10 p.m.,

#### HIP-HOP

1015 Folsom: 1015 Folsom St., San Francisco. Yasiin Bey aka Mos Def. Key Choice, Jahi, DJ D-Sharp, Mr. E. DJ Levdis, 9 p.m., \$25-\$35 advance.

Eastside West: 3154 Fillmore, San Francisco. "Throw back Thursdays." w/ DJ Madison, 9 p.m., free,

The EndUp: 401 Sixth St., San Francisco, "Cypher," w/ resident DJ Big Von. 10 p.m., \$5-\$10.

Skylark Bar: 3089 16th St., San Francisco. "Peaches," w/ lady DJs DeeAndroid, Lady Fingaz, That Girl. Umami, Inkfat, and Andre, 10 p.m., free.

ACOUSTIC



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for calendar of events and information





WED 12/18

LEAH TYSSE

THU 12/19

CHRIS FORD (4PM - 8PM) CRAIG HORTON (9:30PM - 1:30AM)

FRI 12/20

HIGH WATER BLUES (4PM - 8PM) CHRIS COBB (9:30PM - 1:30AM)

SAT 12/21

TONY PEREZ & 2ND HAND SMOKE (4PM - 8PM) STAN ERHART (9:30PM - 1:30AM)

SUN 12/22

BLUES POWER (4PM - 8PM) THE DOOR SLAMMERS (9:30PM - 1:30AM)

MON 12/23

PETER LINDMAN (4PM - 8PM) THE BACHELORS (9:30PM - 1:30AM)

TUE 12/24

CLOSED (7:00PM - 2:00AM)

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SATURDAY - SUNDAY 8:00PM - 2:00AN LOUNGE UPSTAIRS - CLUB DOWNSTAIRS

ANOTHER PLANET ENTERTAINMENT - APRODRESSTS CON

Amnesia: 853 Valencia, San Francisco. The Amigos Band, Ben Flocks, 7:30 p.m., \$7-\$10.

Atlas Cafe: 3049 20th St., San Francisco. Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Jam Session, 8 p.m., free.

Cigar Bar & Grill: 850 Montgomery, San Francisco. The Neckbeard Boys, 8 p.m.

The Independent: 628 Divisadero, San Francisco. Nat Keefe Concert Carnival, w/ Tim Carbone, Tim Flannery. The T Sisters. Melody Walker & Jacob Groopman, Matt Sharkey, The Coeds, members of Hot Buttered Rum, DJ Shooey, more, 8 p.m., \$20-\$35.

The Lost Church: 65 Capp St., San Francisco. The Scrap on Capp: Songwriter Grudge Match, w/ Maurice Tani vs. Paul Griffiths, 8 p.m., \$10.

Make-Out Room: 3225 22nd St., San Francisco. Parker Gibbs' Annual Holiday Craptacular, S.F. Food Bank can drive featuring Marc & The Casuals, Mark Eitzel, Kelley Stoltz, Paula Frazer, Joel Robinow, Justin Frahm, more, 7 p.m., \$15 plus non-perishable

Plough & Stars: 116 Clement, San Francisco. Emperor Norton Céilí Band, 9 p.m.

#### JAZZ

Bottle Can: 1707 Powell, San Francisco, The North Beach Sound with Ned Boynton, Jordan Samuels,

and Tom Vickers, 7 p.m., free.

Cafe Claude: 7 Claude, San Francisco. Dick Fregulia's Good Vibes Trio, 7:30 p.m., free.

Jazz Bistro at Les Joulins: 44 Ellis, San Francisco. Eugene Pliner Quartet with Tod Dickow, First and Third Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m.,

The Lucky Horseshoe: 453 Cortland, San Francisco. Ralph Carnev's Serious Jass Project, 9 p.m.

Pier 23 Cafe: Pier 23, San Francisco. Grant Levin Group, 7 p.m., free.

The Royal Cuckoo: 3202 Mission, San Francisco. Charlie Siebert & Chris Siebert, 7:30 p.m., free. Top of the Mark: One Nob Hill, 999 California, San

Francisco, Stompy Jones, 7:30 p.m., \$10. Zingari: 501 Post, San Francisco. Barbara Ochoa, 7:30 p.m., free.

#### INTERNATIONAL

Bissap Baobab: 3372 19th St., San Francisco. "Pa'Lante!," w/ Juan G, El Kool Kyle, Mr. Lucky, 10 p.m., \$5.

Cafe Cocomo: 650 Indiana, San Francisco. Bembe, DJ Good Sho, 8 p.m., \$12.

**Jewish Community Center of San Francisco: 3200** California, San Francisco, "Celebrating Cuba," w/ Vission Latina, 7 p.m., free with RSVP (required),



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## MERRY FLIPPIN' CHRISTMAS

9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22, at Amnesia. Free; amnesiathebar.com

Not everyone can get away for the Holidaze, so if you're in town for Christmas week there's an audio-buffet awaiting, served up by some primo Bay Area talent. Your beloved Amnesia hosts the lonesome, Appalachian-tinged warbling of Paula Frazer (Tarnation); the silky '70s-influenced retro-pop of Bart Davenport (Loved Ones, Honeycut), Sonny & The Sunsets' witty, arty garage-pop, Paul Costuros & Matt Shapiro of the self-explanatory Saturday Night Soul Party, Heidi Alexander of the Sandwitches (psych-glazed rootsrock) and more. They'll either celebrate the holiday, or chase out the holiday blues, your choice. Mark Keresman









### WEDNESDAY 12/18 AT 9PM, FREE! **BURN DOWN THE DISCO!** 80S DANCE PARTY DJ 2SHY-SHY & DJ MELT W/U 80S GROOVE, WAVE, GOTH, SYNTH-POP, & MORE!

## HURSDAY 12/19 AT 7PM, \$15 W/ CAN OF FOOD THE GIBBSMO HOLIDAY CRAPTACULAR!

A CAN DRIVE FOR THE SF FOODBANK MARC AND THE CASUALS WITH MARK EITZEL • KELLEY STOLTZ **PAULA FRAZER • JOEL ROBINOW** JUSTIN FRAHM • VICTOR KRUMMENACHER BART DAVENPORT • DENISE CAMPANARO BETH MCKENNA - JASON MORGAN ATRICK MAIN • JAMIN BARTON • JILL OLSON ERIC MOFFAT • PHIL CRUMAR • TOM & DEIRDRE DOUG & CAROLEEN + MANY SURPRISES!

FOLLOWING AT 11PM, FREE!
SOUL: IT'S THE REAL THING! WITH THE SELECTER DJ KIRK & JON BLUNCK 60S & 70S SOUL

## FRIDAY 12/20 AT 6PM, \$10 RED LIGHT LIT

VOL. 3: THE STORIES THAT BIND US SYLVIE SIMMONS • SARAH BETHE NELSON COREY GRUBER • MIAH JEFFRA BRADEN MARKS • JEN SNYDER VERONICA CHRISTINA

FOLLOWING AT 10PM, \$5 BEFORE 11, \$10 AFTER LOOSE JOINTS

DJ TOM THUMP/DAMON BELL/CENTIPEDE FUNK/SOUL/HIP-HOP/LATIN/AFRO-BEAT

SATURDAY 12/21 AT 7:30PM, \$8 WINDHAM FLAT THAT'S NOT HER

FOLLOWING AT 10PM, \$5 BEFORE 11PM EL SUPERRITMO! W/ ROGER MAS Y EL KOOL KYLE CUMBIA/DANCEHALL/SALSA/HIP-HOP

SUNDAY 12/22 AT 7:30PM, \$8 CHROME EAGLE • CRYSTAL GOBLET

MONDAY 12/23 AT 7PM, FREE!
POP LIFE, THE ZERO-CALORIE QUIZ! W/ YOUR HOST AGENT J

FOLLOWING AT 9:30PM, FREE! KARAOKE SUNDOWN MONDAYS W/ KJ ROGER NINER!

#### WEDNESDAY 12/25 AT 5PM, \$5-10 IT'S A JEWISH XMAS, SAN FRANCISCO

HANUKKAH BUSH, BROKE ASS STUART! JEWISH XMAS REVUE • STRIP DREIDEL! DJS, DANCING, CHINESE BUFFET, FLICKS

THURSDAY 12/26 AT 9PM, FREE! FREE! FREE! WEB OF SOUND! W/ DJ JACKIE SUGARLUMPS

3225 22nd ST. @ MISSION SF CA 94110 415-647-2888 • www.makeoutroom.com

Sheba Piano Lounge: 1419 Fillmore, San Francisco. Gary Flores & Descarga Caliente, 8 p.m.

#### REGGAE

Slim's: 333 11th St., San Francisco. Bayonics, Native Elements, Da Mainland, DJ Mr. Lucky, 9 p.m., \$14.

#### BLUES

Biscuits and Blues: 401 Mason, San Francisco. Jules Leyhe, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., \$15.

The Saloon: 1232 Grant, San Francisco, Chris Ford. Third Thursday of every month, 4 p.m.; Craig Horton, 9:30 p.m.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL**

The Luggage Store: 1007 Market, San Francisco, Dave DeFilippo, Joshua Marshall, 8 p.m., \$6-\$10.

#### FUNK

Cafe Du Nord: 2170 Market, San Francisco. Black Christmas with the Afrofunk Experience & Broun Fellinis, 8:30 p.m., \$8.

#### SOUL

Make-Out Room: 3225 22nd St., San Francisco, "Soul: It's the Real Thing," 11 p.m., free.

Yoshi's San Francisco: 1330 Fillmore, San Francisco. Sweet Soul Christmas with Greg Adams & East Bay Soul. 8 p.m., \$25.

#### **FRIDAY 12/20**

#### ROCK

Bottom of the Hill: 1233 17th St., San Francisco. Eric McFadden & Friends, The Pleasure Kills, The Campbell Apartment, 9:30 p.m., \$10-\$12.

Brick & Mortar Music Hall: 1710 Mission, San Francisco. Freestone Peaches, Pat Nevins, 9 p.m., \$7-\$10.

Cafe Du Nord: 2170 Market, San Francisco, Icewater, Eleanor Friedberger, Michael & The Strange Land, 9:30 p.m., \$10-\$15.

El Rio: 3158 Mission, San Francisco. Friday Live: Steel Hotcakes, DJ Emotions, 10 p.m., free.

Elbo Room: 647 Valencia, San Francisco. The El Vez & Rosie Flores Mexmas Show, w/ Toshio Hirano, DJ Sid Presley, 9 p.m., \$15-\$18.

Hotel Utah: 500 Fourth St., San Francisco, The Night Falls, The Desert Line, The Beggars Who Give, Bears for Sharks, 9 n.m., \$8.

The Independent: 628 Divisadero, San Francisco. The Growlers, The Abigails, Mystic Brayes, 9 p.m., \$20. Slim's: 333 11th St., San Francisco. Exodus, Nails, Hellfire, 8 p.m., \$25.

#### DANCE

1015 Folsom: 1015 Folsom St., San Francisco, "Re:Creation," w/ Purity Ring (DJ set), Giraffage, Sweater Beats, Insightful, B. Lewis, Pony Bwoy, DJ Dials, more, 10 p.m., \$15-\$20 advance.

Audio Discotech: 316 11th St., San Francisco, Pezzner, Fred Everything, 9:30 p.m., \$10 advance.

BeatBox: 314 11th St., San Francisco, "Bears in the Dark," w/ DJ John LePage, 10 p.m., \$5-\$10.

The Cafe: 2369 Market, San Francisco, "Boy Bar," w/ DJ Matt Consola, 9 p.m., \$5.

Cat Club: 1190 Folsom, San Francisco. "Violator: A Depeche Mode Tribute Night," w/ DJs Tomas Diablo, Daniel Skellington, and Sage, 9:30 p.m., \$7 (\$4 before 10 p.m.).

DNA Lounge: 375 11th St., San Francisco, "The End," w/ Hieroglyphics, Wick-it the Instigator, III-Esha, K Theory, Sugarpill, Singularity, Sam F, Mutrix, Stylust Beats, Clark Kent, LabRat, J. Lately, many more, 8 p.m., \$25-\$35.

Lookout: 3600 16th St., San Francisco. "HYSL," 9 p.m., \$3.

Madrone Art Bar: 500 Divisadero, San Francisco. "That '80s Show," w/ DJs Dave Paul & Jeff Harris, Third Friday of every month, 9 p.m., \$5.

Manor West: 750 Harrison, San Francisco. "Fortune Fridays," w/ DJ Solarz & Marcus Lee, 10 p.m.

Monarch: 101 6th St., San Francisco. "Disco Knights," w/ Wolf + Lamb, DJ M3, Anthony Mansfield, 10 p.m., \$15-\$20 advance.

Public Works: 161 Erie, San Francisco, "Odvssev," w/ Matrixxman, Vin Sol, Robin Simmons (in the OddJob loft), 9:30 p.m., \$10.

Ruby Skye: 420 Mason, San Francisco. Fleming & Lawrence, aka John 00 Fleming & Christopher Lawrence, 9 p.m., \$20-\$25 advance.

Slate Bar: 2925 16th St., San Francisco, "A Darling Nikki/Hella Gay Soirée," w/ DJs Durt, Finn, Black, and G-Star. 9 p.m., \$5.

Vessel: 85 Campton, San Francisco. Autoérotique, Justin Milla, 10 p.m., \$10-\$30.

#### HIP-HOP

John Colins: 138 Minna, San Francisco. "Juicy," w/ DJ Ry Toast, Third Friday of every month, 10 p.m., \$5 (free before 11 p.m.).

Mighty: 119 Utah, San Francisco. Mighty 10-Year Anniversary, w/ Triple Threat DJs Shortkut, Apollo, and Vinroc, 9 p.m., \$5 (free before midnight with

Public Works: 161 Erie, San Francisco. DJ Z-Trip, DJ Goldenchyld, J-Boogie, Ren the Vinyl Archaeologist. 9 p.m., \$18

Rickshaw Stop: 155 Fell, San Francisco. American Tripps Hip-Hop & Ping Pong: Ho-Ho-Ho Edition, w/ D.I Beauregard, 8 p.m., \$5-\$7.

Showdown: 10 Sixth St., San Francisco. "Fresh to Def Fridays: A Tribute to Yo! MTV Raps," w/ resident DJs Boom Bostic, Inkfat, and Hay Hay, Third Friday of every month, 10 p.m.

#### ACOUSTIC

Bazaar Cafe: 5927 California, San Francisco. John

The Chapel: 777 Valencia St., San Francisco. KALX Solstice in Stereo, w/ Foxtails Brigade, The Seshen, Farallons, 9 p.m., \$12-\$14.

Old First Presbyterian Church: 1751 Sacramento, San Francisco, Golden Bough: A Celtic Yuletide Celebration, 8 p.m., \$14-\$17.

Pa'ina: 1865 Post St., San Francisco. Ukulenny, 7 p.m. Plough & Stars: 116 Clement, San Francisco. "Bluegrass Bonanza." w/ The Dust Bowl Cavaliers, Nobody from Nashville, 9 p.m., \$6-\$10.

#### JAZZ

Atlas Cafe: 3049 20th St., San Francisco. ESP Quartet, 7:30 p.m., free.

Cafe Claude: 7 Claude, San Francisco. Marcus Shelby Trio. 7:30 p.m., free.

Jazz Bistro at Les Joulins: 44 Ellis, San Francisco. Charles Unger Experience, 7:30 p.m., free.

Pier 23 Cafe: Pier 23, San Francisco. Hard Bop Collective, 8 p.m., free.

Savanna Jazz Club: 2937 Mission, San Francisco. Benn Bacot, 7:30 p.m., \$8.

Top of the Mark: One Nob Hill, 999 California, San Francisco, Black Market Jazz Orchestra, 9 p.m., \$10. Verdi Club: 2424 Mariposa, San Francisco. Sixth Annual Stompy Jones Sleigh Ride, 8 p.m., \$15.

Yoshi's San Francisco: 1330 Fillmore, San Francisco. The Count Basie Orchestra, 8 & 10 p.m., \$29-\$35.

#### INTERNATIONAL



**High Brutality Quotient** 

## **EXODUS**

With Nails and Hellfire. 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20, at Slim's. \$25;

www.slimspresents.com

Pioneering East Bay thrash-metal outfit Exodus could have imploded when Metallica nicked its founding guitarist, Kirk Hammett, to replace drunken douchebag Dave Mustaine in 1983. Instead, the Gary Holt-led quintet has spent the better part of three decades cementing its place in metal history with neck-snapping lessons of violence. From the mosh-pit anthems "And Then There Were None" and "Strike of the Beast" found on the band's classic 1985 debut Bonded By Blood through the more intricate thrash epics produced by the current line-up, Exodus has always kept its standard for sonic brutality high. While Holt has spent much of the last three years filling in for ailing Slayer guitarist Jeff Hanneman (who sadly passed away in May), he returns to his main passion when the band headlines this rare local club show with SoCal grindcore extremists Nails and S.F. thrash acolytes Hellfire. Dave Pehling



Asiento: 2730 21st St., San Francisco. "Kulcha Latino," w/ resident selectors Stepwise, Ras Rican, and El Kool Kyle, Third Friday of every month, 9 p.m., free.

Cafe Cocomo: 650 Indiana, San Francisco. Taste Fridays, featuring local cuisine tastings, salsa bands, dance lessons, and more, 7:30 p.m., \$15 (free entry to patio).

Cigar Bar & Grill: 850 Montgomery, San Francisco. Conjunto Picante, 10 p.m.

Red Poppy Art House: 2698 Folsom, San Francisco. A Night of Latin American Music, 7:30 p.m., \$10-\$15.

#### BLUES

Lou's Fish Shack: 300 Jefferson St., San Francisco. Eldon Brown, 6:30 p.m.

The Saloon: 1232 Grant, San Francisco. Highwater Blues, 4 p.m.: Chris Cobb. 9:30 p.m.

#### FUNK

Boom Boom Room: 1601 Fillmore, San Francisco. Bad Jellyfish, 9:30 p.m., \$20 advance.

Make-Out Room: 3225 22nd St., San Francisco. "Loose Joints," w/ DJs Centipede, Damon Bell, and Tom Thump, 10 p.m., \$5-\$10.

#### SOUL

Edinburgh Castle: 950 Geary, San Francisco. "Soul Crush," w/ DJ Serious Leisure, 10 p.m., free,

Feinstein's at the Nikko: 222 Mason St., San Francisco. "Love Hangover: LaChanze Sings Diana Ross." Fri., Dec. 20. 8 p.m.: Sat., Dec. 21. 7 p.m., \$30-\$50.

The Knockout: 3223 Mission, San Francisco, "Oldies Night," W/ DJs Primo, Daniel, Lost Cat, and friends, Third Friday of every month, 10 p.m., \$5.

The Royal Cuckoo: 3202 Mission, San Francisco. Freddie Hughes & Chris Burns, 7:30 p.m., free.

#### SATURDAY 12/21

#### ROCK

Bottom of the Hill: 1233 17th St., San Francisco. Happy Body Slow Brain, Facing New York, Gavin Castleton, Via Coma, 9 p.m., \$10-\$12.

Cafe Du Nord: 2170 Market, San Francisco, Beware of Darkness, Down & Outlaws, 9:30 p.m., \$10.

El Rio: 3158 Mission, San Francisco. The Atomic Machines. The Shams Eire. Fenton Coolfoot & The Right Time, 9 p.m., \$8.

Hemlock Tavern: 1131 Polk, San Francisco. Hungry Skinny, Saturn Cats, Brasil, 9:30 p.m., \$6.

The Independent: 628 Divisadero, San Francisco. The Growlers, The Abigails, Cat Signs, 9 p.m., \$20. Make-Out Room: 3225 22nd St., San Francisco, Wind-

ham Flat, That's Not Her, 7:30 p.m., \$8.

The Riptide: 3639 Taraval, San Francisco. The Honey Wilders, 9:30 p.m., free.

Slim's: 333 11th St., San Francisco. The Vandals' 18th Annual Christmas Formal with Emily's Army, The Blast. 9 p.m., \$18.

Thee Parkside: 1600 17th St., San Francisco. Youth Brigade, Civil War Rust, Rats in the Wall, Bum City Saints, 9 p.m., \$12.

#### DANCE

Amnesia: 853 Valencia, San Francisco, "Pance Darty." w/ Jiaaxxnn & Duke, Third Saturday of every month. 9 p.m., \$7.

Audio Discotech: 316 11th St., San Francisco. Felix Da Housecat, Andrew Phelan, Mario Dubbz, 9:30 p.m., \$10 advance.

BeatBox: 314 11th St., San Francisco, "Evolution," w/ DJ Alexander, 10 p.m.

Cat Club: 1190 Folsom, San Francisco. "New Wave City: Numan League - A Double-Synth Tribute to Gary Numan and the Human League," w/ DJs Skip, Shindog, Low-Life, Kenny, and Moonshine, 9 p.m., \$7-\$12.

The Chapel: 777 Valencia St., San Francisco. The Range, 9 p.m., \$12.

DNA Lounge: 375 11th St., San Francisco. "Bootie S.F." w/ Entyme, MyKill, Meikee Magnetic, Mixtress ShiZaam, more., 9 p.m., \$10-\$15.

The EndUp: 401 Sixth St., San Francisco, "The Show," w/ Syd Gris, DJ Denise, Dragn'fly, Influence, Ryan Cavalier, Bill Samuels, Ben Seagren, Lise Rose, Beau Kelly, 10 p.m.

F8: 1192 Folsom St., San Francisco, "Team Supreme S.F.," w/ B. Lewis, Colta, Mike Gao, Jnthn Stein, Kenny Segal, Ruff Draft, more, 9 p.m., \$5-\$15.

Il Pirata: 2007 16th St., San Francisco. "Requiem,"





FRIDAY 12/20 - LOFT ODYSSEY: MATRIXXMAN SATURDAY 12/21 - LOFT ALL NIGHT LONG W/ DJ GARTH

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SALES AND RENTALS

w/ DJs Xiola, Owen, and Dire DeLorean, 10 p.m.

Madrone Art Bar: 500 Divisadero, San Francisco. "Fringe," w/ DJs Blondie K & subOctave, Third Saturday of every month, 9 p.m., \$5 (free before

Manor West: 750 Harrison, San Francisco. "Chemistry Saturdays," w/ DJ Scooter, 10 p.m.

Mezzanine: 444 Jessie. San Francisco. "Fools in the Night: Winter Wonderland," w/ Vicerov, Mystery Skulls, FM Attack, Amble, 9 p.m., \$15.

Mighty: 119 Utah, San Francisco, "Salted," w/ Grant Nelson, Miguel Migs, Julius Papp, 10 p.m., \$10 before 11 p.m.

Monarch: 101 6th St., San Francisco. "Night Moves," w/ Kevin Knapp, Jimmy B. Brothers in Arms (J-Boogie & Deejay Theory), Papa Lu, 9 p.m., \$10-\$20.

Powerhouse: 1347 Folsom, San Francisco, "Beatpig," Third Saturday of every month, 9 p.m.

Public Works: 161 Erie, San Francisco, "Deep Blue," w/ Tini, DJ Rooz, more (in the main room), 9:30 p.m., \$10-\$20; "All Night Long," w/ DJ Garth (in the OddJob Loft), 10 p.m., \$7 advance.

Rickshaw Stop: 155 Fell, San Francisco. "Gameboi S.F.: The Annual Xmas Party," w/ VJ LaRock, 9:30 p.m., \$8-\$15.

Ruby Skye: 420 Mason, San Francisco, "World Town: 6-Year Anniversary," w/ Henrix, Trevor Simpson, 9 p.m., \$20 advance

The Stud: 399 Ninth St., San Francisco. "Squrrrl Gives Back." Larkin Street Youth Services benefit with D.Is. Trevor Sigler, Joe Pickett, and Ben Holder, 9 p.m.,

Vessel: 85 Campton, San Francisco. EDX, 10 p.m., \$10 advance.

#### HIP-HOP

111 Minna Gallery: 111 Minna St., San Francisco. "Shine," Third Saturday of every month, 10 p.m.

Brick & Mortar Music Hall: 1710 Mission, San Francisco. Rappin' 4-Tay, RBL Posse, Cellski, Equipto, 10 p.m., \$8-\$10.

John Colins: 138 Minna, San Francisco. "The Bump," w/ The Whooligan, Third Saturday of every month,

The Knockout: 3223 Mission, San Francisco, "The Booty Bassment," w/ DJs Dimitri Dickinson & Ryan Poulsen. Third Saturday of every month, 10 p.m.,

Showdown: 10 Sixth St., San Francisco, "Purple." w/ resident DJs ChaunceyCC & Party Pablo, Third Saturday of every month, 10 n.m.

#### ACOUSTIC

Atlas Cafe: 3049 20th St., San Francisco. Craig Ventresco & Meredith Axelrod, Saturdays, 4-6 p.m.,

Bazaar Cafe: 5927 California, San Francisco. Sweet Havah, Samuel Roland, Olivia Clayton, 7 n.m.

Hotel Utah: 500 Fourth St., San Francisco. Bonnie Sun, Jean Marc Enriquez, Gyasi Ross, 9 p.m.,

The Lost Church: 65 Capp St., San Francisco, Eight Belles, Jameson Swanagon, 8 p.m., \$10.

The Lucky Horseshoe: 453 Cortland, San Francisco. Xmas with the Bogues, 9 p.m.

Plough & Stars: 116 Clement, San Francisco, Daniel

The Rite Spot Cafe: 2099 Folsom, San Francisco. Toshio Hirano, 9 p.m., free,

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church: 2097 Turk, San Francisco. Celtic Winter Solstice Concert with Four Shillings Short & Broceliande, 7:30 p.m., \$10-\$12.

#### JAZZ

Cafe Claude: 7 Claude, San Francisco. Monroe Trio, 7:30 p.m., free.

Jazz Bistro at Les Joulins: 44 Ellis, San Francisco.

Bill "Doc" Webster & Jazz Nostalgia, 7:30 p.m., free. Pier 23 Cafe: Pier 23, San Francisco. Legends & Friends, 8 p.m., free.

The Royal Cuckoo: 3202 Mission, San Francisco. Jules Broussard, Danny Armstrong, and Chris Siebert, 7:30 p.m., free.

Savanna Jazz Club: 2937 Mission, San Francisco. Savanna Jazz Trio, 7:30 p.m., \$8.

Sheba Piano Lounge: 1419 Fillmore, San Francisco. The Robert Stewart Experience, 9 p.m.

Yoshi's San Francisco: 1330 Fillmore, San Francisco. The Count Basie Orchestra, 8 & 10 p.m., \$29-\$35.

#### INTERNATIONAL

1015 Folsom: 1015 Folsom St., San Francisco. "Pura," 9 p.m., \$20.

Cafe Cocomo: 650 Indiana, San Francisco. La Fuerza Gigante, El DJ X, 8 p.m., \$15.

Cigar Bar & Grill: 850 Montgomery, San Francisco. Orguesta La Clave Del Blanco, 10 p.m.

Make-Out Room: 3225 22nd St., San Francisco, "El SuperRitmo," w/ DJs Roger Mas & El Kool Kyle, 10 p.m., \$5 before 11 p.m.

Old First Presbyterian Church: 1751 Sacramento, San Francisco. Kitka: Wintersongs, 8 p.m., \$15-

Red Poppy Art House: 2698 Folsom, San Francisco. Bolo, 7:30 p.m., \$15-\$20.

Space 550: 550 Barneveld, San Francisco, "Club

Yoshi's San Francisco: 1330 Fillmore, San Francisco. Nene Malo, in Yoshi's lounge, 10:30 p.m., \$25-

#### BLUES

Biscuits and Blues: 401 Mason, San Francisco. Rod Piazza & The Mighty Flyers, 7:30 & 10 p.m., \$24.

Lou's Fish Shack: 300 Jefferson St., San Francisco. Willie G. 6:30 p.m.

The Saloon: 1232 Grant, San Francisco. Tony Perez & Second Hand Smoke, Third Saturday of every month, 4 p.m.; Stan Erhart, 9:30 p.m

#### **EXPERIMENTAL**

Center for New Music: 55 Taylor St., San Francisco. RTD3. 8 n.m., \$7-\$10

#### **FUNK**



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Boom Boom Room: 1601 Fillmore, San Francisco. Funk Revival Orchestra, Swoop Unit, DJ K-Os, 9:30 p.m., \$10-\$15.

Pa'ina: 1865 Post St., San Francisco. Typhoon Fundraiser with Chocolate Rice, 7 p.m.

#### SOUL

Elbo Room: 647 Valencia, San Francisco. "Saturday Night Soul Party." w/ DJs Lucky. Phengren Oswald. and Paul Paul, Third Saturday of every month, 10 p.m., \$10 (\$5 in formal attire).

Feinstein's at the Nikko: 222 Mason St., San Francisco. "Love Hangover: LaChanze Sings Diana Ross," Fri., Dec. 20, 8 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 21, 7 p.m., \$30-\$50.

#### **SUNDAY 12/22**

#### ROCK

DNA Lounge: 375 11th St., San Francisco. The Jingle Bell Rock & Metal Fest 2013, w/ First Contact, This Plague Between Us, Orbiting Pluto, The Wet Bandits, Point of Interest, Ocelot, Global Affront, Bellyfull, Hairstrike, Sketch Republic, Posers, The A6's, Parkside, Only the Pinkys, Pillars of Hercules, Mythra, Buried, 5:30 p.m., \$10-\$15.

Great American Music Hall: 859 O'Farrell, San Francisco, The Ugly Sweater Social: Day 1, w/ Finish Ticket, French Cassettes, 9 p.m., \$1-\$20.

Hemlock Tavern: 1131 Polk, San Francisco. Wreck & Reference, Creepers, So Stressed, 8:30 p.m., \$6.

Make-Out Room: 3225 22nd St., San Francisco, Chrome Eagle, Crystal Goblet, 7:30 p.m., \$8.

Slim's: 333 11th St., San Francisco, Strung Out (playing An American Paradox), Voodoo Glow Skulls, Dearly Divided, 8 p.m., \$18-\$20.

Sub-Mission Art Space (Balazo 18 Gallery): 2183 Mission, San Francisco. Jokes for Feelings, Sarchasm, Push, MFB, Skank Bank, 7:30 p.m., \$7.

#### DANCE

BeatBox: 314 11th St., San Francisco. "Tea-Rex," w/ DJ Corey Craig, 4-8 p.m., \$10.

Beauty Bar: 2299 Mission, San Francisco. "The Horror Hop: A December to Dismember," w/ DJs Creepy B, Adrienne Scissorhands, and Roxy Rolle, 10 p.m.,

Club X: 715 Harrison, San Francisco. "Electro Pop Rocks: EPR's Electric Christmas," 18+ dance night,

Elbo Room: 647 Valencia, San Francisco, "Dub Mission," w/ Kush Arora, Jimmy Love, DJ Sep, 9 p.m., \$6 (free before 9:30 p.m.).

F8: 1192 Folsom St., San Francisco, "Stamina," w/ Flaco, Submorphics, Retox, Canadub, 10 p.m.,

The Knockout: 3223 Mission, San Francisco, "Sweater Funk," 10 p.m., free.

Monarch: 101 6th St., San Francisco, "Reload," w/ Pedro Arbulu, 9 p.m., \$5.

The Parlor: 2801 Leavenworth, San Francisco. DJ Marc deVasconcelos, 10 p.m., free.

#### HIP-HOP

Boom Boom Room: 1601 Fillmore, San Francisco. "Return of the Cypher," 9:30 p.m., free

#### ACOUSTIC

Amnesia: 853 Valencia, San Francisco. Merry Flipping Christmas Variety Show, w/ Heidi Alexander, Noelle Cahill, Jen Snyder, Sonny Smith, Justin Frahm, Rob Spector, Paula Frazer, Bart Davenport, Paul Costuros, Matt Shapiro, more, 9 p.m.

Bazaar Cafe: 5927 California, San Francisco. Manjali Light, 6 p.m.



nna Larina, Skeleton Key Photography

Bissap Baobab: 3372 19th St., San Francisco. "Brazil

El Rio: 3158 Mission, San Francisco. "Salsa Sundays,"

Pier 23 Cafe: Pier 23, San Francisco. Mario Flores,

Thirsty Bear Brewing Company: 661 Howard, San

Second and Fourth Sunday of every month, 3

& Bevond," 6:30 p.m., free.

p.m., \$8-\$10.

5 p.m., free.

Lou's Fish Shack: 300 Jefferson St., San Francisco. Sam Johnson, 4 p.m.

The Lucky Horseshoe: 453 Cortland, San Francisco. JimBo Trout & The Fishpeople, 8 p.m.

Plough & Stars: 116 Clement, San Francisco, The Pat O'Donnell Band, 9 p.m.

#### JAZZ

Biscuits and Blues: 401 Mason, San Francisco, Kim Nalley's Gospel Christmas, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.,

Jazz Bistro at Les Joulins: 44 Ellis, San Francisco. Bill "Doc" Webster & Jazz Nostalgia, 7:30 p.m., free. Madrone Art Bar: 500 Divisadero, San Francisco. "Sunday Sessions," 10 p.m., free.

The Royal Cuckoo: 3202 Mission, San Francisco. Lavay Smith & Chris Siebert, 7:30 p.m., free.

Zingari: 501 Post, San Francisco. Amanda Addleman, 7:30 p.m., free. INTERNATIONAL

Francisco, "The Flamenco Room," 7:30 & 8:30 p.m. Yoshi's San Francisco: 1330 Fillmore, San Francisco. Christmas with the Celts, 2 & 6 p.m., \$28-\$55.

#### BLUES

The Saloon: 1232 Grant, San Francisco. Blues Power, 4 p.m.: The Door Slammers, 9:30 p.m.

Swig: 571 Geary, San Francisco. Sunday Blues Jam with Ed Ivev. 9 p.m.

#### SOUL

Brick & Mortar Music Hall: 1710 Mission, San Francisco. Jasmine Nichol, 8th Grader, 8 p.m., \$15-\$25.





#### **MONDAY 12/23**

#### ROCK

Bottom of the Hill: 1233 17th St., San Francisco, Local Hero, Eager Eyes, Before the Brave, 8 p.m., \$8-

Brick & Mortar Music Hall: 1710 Mission, San Francisco. Breakaway Patriot, Musical Charis, 9 p.m., \$7-

Slim's: 333 11th St., San Francisco. The Ugly Sweater Social: Day 2. w/ Finish Ticket, Picture Atlantic, 9 p.m., sold out.

#### DANCE

DNA Lounge: 375 11th St., San Francisco. "Death Guild," 18+ dance party with DJs Decay, Joe Radio, Melting Girl, & guests, 9:30 p.m., \$3-\$5.

Q Bar: 456 Castro, San Francisco. "Wanted," w/ DJs Key&Kite and Richie Panic, 9 p.m., free

Underground SF: 424 Haight, San Francisco. "Vienetta Discotheque." w/ DJs Stanley Frank and Robert Jeffrey, 10 p.m., free.

#### ACOUSTIC

Amnesia: 853 Valencia, San Francisco, The Farl Brothers, Fourth Monday of every month, 9 p.m., free.

Bazaar Cafe: 5927 California, San Francisco, Patrick Luckett & Hanako Irie, 7 p.m.

Hotel Utah: 500 Fourth St., San Francisco, Open Mic with Brendan Getzell, 8 p.m., free.

The Saloon: 1232 Grant, San Francisco. Peter Lindman. 4 p.m.

#### JAZZ

Jazz Bistro at Les Joulins: 44 Ellis, San Francisco, Eugene Pliner Quartet with Tod Dickow, 7:30 p.m., free. Sheba Piano Lounge: 1419 Fillmore, San Francisco. City Jazz Instrumental Jam Session, 8 p.m.

The Union Room at Biscuits and Blues: 401 Mason, San Francisco. The Session: A Monday Night Jazz Series, pro jazz jam with Mike Olmos, 7:30 p.m., \$12.

Yoshi's San Francisco: 1330 Fillmore, San Francisco. Natasha Miller's Annual Holiday Concert, 8 p.m.,

Zingari: 501 Post, San Francisco. Gayle Wilhelm, 7:30 p.m., free.

#### REGGAE

Skylark Bar: 3089 16th St., San Francisco. "Skylarking," w/ I&I Vibration, 10 p.m., free.

#### **BLUES**

The Saloon: 1232 Grant, San Francisco. The Bachelors, 9:30 p.m.

#### SOUL

Madrone Art Bar: 500 Divisadero. San Francisco. "M.O.M. (Motown on Mondays)," w/ DJ Gordo Cabeza & Timoteo Gigante, 8 p.m., free.

#### **TUESDAY 12/24**

#### JAZZ

Burritt Room: 417 Stockton St., San Francisco, Terry Disley's Rocking Jazz Trio, 6 p.m., free.

Jazz Bistro at Les Joulins: 44 Ellis, San Francisco. Clifford Lamb, Mel Butts, and Friends, 7:30 p.m., free. Yoshi's San Francisco: 1330 Fillmore, San Francisco.

Clairdee's 11th Annual Christmas Eve Show, 8 p.m., \$20.

Zingari: 501 Post, San Francisco. Hubert Emerson, 7:30 p.m.

### GOSPEL

Slim's: 333 11th St., San Francisco, Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir Ensemble, 7 & 9:30 p.m., \$15.



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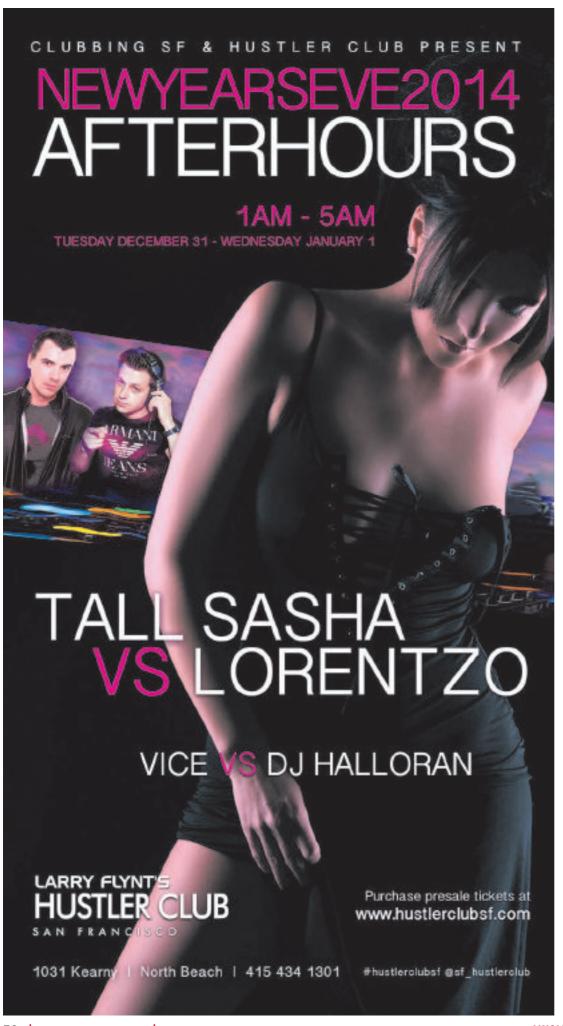
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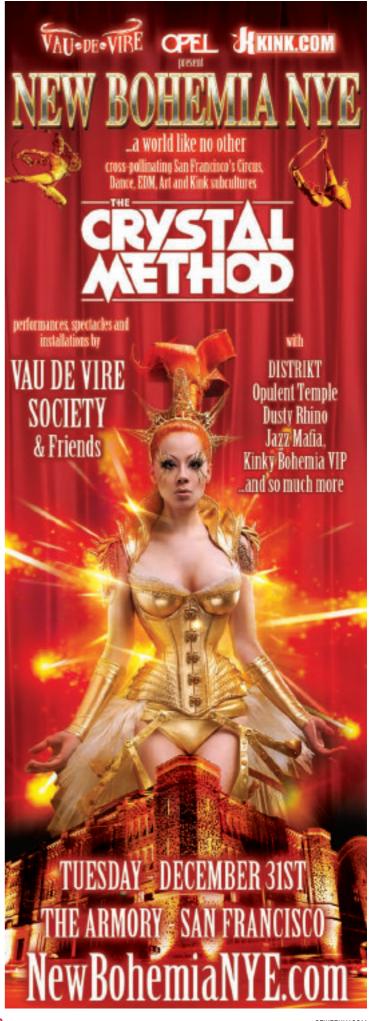
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### SAVAGE LOVE

#### **CHANGE AGENT**

#### By Dan Savage

I've talked to my girlfriends, my mom, and his mom, but I need some unbiased advice. I'm a 28-year-old woman in a relationship for 3.5 years with a wonderful man, also 28. I hit the jackpot: He is loving, sweet, kind, driven, active, handsome, generous, etc. We're very committed to each other and planning our future together. We've lived together for 2.5 years. Life is so great! Enter the issue: We've been discussing marriage since January of this year. Until May, he was opposed to it. Not in the can't-see-spending-the-rest-of-my-lifewith-you way, but in the not-wanting-to-marry-anyone-in-the-near-future way. "I don't feel old enough yet," he says, which makes me want to slap him, because my baby-making years are flying by. We talk about wanting the same things in life, like a family and a home, but those are things I won't do with him unless we are married and also things I don't want to start doing when I'm 35. We've talked about not wanting to be old parents and we seem to agree on everything — except he won't pull the trigger. I just don't get it! We did make some progress. In August, he mentioned the possibly of a proposal around the holidays, which are upon us. But when his mom asked if they should go shopping for a ring, he told her no! That blows a holiday engagement! I am ready for the next phase. He says he is too, but he won't propose. I don't get it! Some guidance would be great.

#### Put Off Proposal Depresses A Queenslander

This is going to seem random, POPDAQ, but indulge me for a second. There was an article in *The New York Times* recently about how young men still aren't doing their fair share of the cooking and cleaning. "Women today make up 40 percent of America's sole or primary breadwinners for families with children under 18," Stephen Marche wrote. "[But] men's time investment in housework has not significantly altered in nearly 30 years."

Reading Marche's piece — in which he makes the case not for men to do more housework (God forbid), but for men and women to live together in filth — made me say, "So glad I'm gay." Out loud. On an airplane. I sometimes have that reaction when I read stories about "the gender wars," which Marche is currently writing a book about, or when I read smut-shaming bullshit about straight men and porn. But Marche's essay elicited a different sort of so-glad-I'm-gay response. It went something like this: "I'm so glad I'm gay because my husband and I don't have the option of defaulting to the stupid gender norms, roles, expectations, neuroses, and riptides that plague so many straight couples."

So despite the fact that we're both men, my husband and I do not live together in filth. When a bed needs to be made or a dish needs to be washed or a floor needs to be mopped — or a spouse's cock needs to be sucked — one of us makes, washes, mops, or sucks it. When there's something that needs doing, we do it. We don't sit around staring at an unmade bed or a dirty dish or a grimy floor or an unsucked spousal cock and think, "I have a dick — so bed-making/dish-doing/floor-mopping/cock-sucking isn't my job."

Do you see where I'm going with this, POP-DAQ? There's something at your place that needs doing — a proposal needs making — and you're sitting around waiting for him to do it. Why? Because he has the dick.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." Mahatma Gandhi said that", POP-DAQ, but I don't need to tell you, right? Because that quote was at the bottom of your e-mail. So here's a thought: Be the change you want to see in your own fucking relationship. You want to get engaged to this guy? Propose to him.

Yes, yes: He has a penis, and traditionally the penis-havers do the proposing in Breederville. But it's not unheard of for someone to make a marriage proposal to a man. Just ask my husband.

Hello from Hong Kong! I'm a 28-year-old gay guy living happily with my boyfriend. My sexual interests have always been men, but a few months ago, I stumbled across femdom porn on the Internet. Images of submissive men under the control of dominant women are so fascinating to me that I have been masturbating three times a day watching femdom porns. I have never been interested in straight porn or fucking someone without a cock, and I have no experience in BDSM at all. Gay BDSM porns don't get me as aroused as femdom porns. I now fantasize about being dominated and humiliated by a woman. I began looking at pro-dom ads on the Internet and I hesitate to see one. I love my boyfriend, and emotionally we connect, but my femdom fantasy has become a taboo between us. My questions: Is seeing a pro dom considered cheating on my boyfriend? Should I go see a pro dom and keep it a secret? How can I talk to my boyfriend about my new sexual interest? Gay Man Seeks Lady Dom

If your boyfriend considers it cheating, then it's cheating. But I nevertheless think you should see a pro dom for a no-sex domination session. (Most pro doms offer only no-sex sessions.) You might find the reality of being abused by a dominant woman less arousing than the fantasy, GMSLD, so a single session could snap you out of it, i.e., this out-of-sexual-character fever could break. And if it doesn't? Then you need to have a talk with your boyfriend about your evolving sexual identity, your newly discovered kinks, and whether you can have him and your femdom fantasies and/or realities, too. Good luck.

I'm a straight 18-year-old girl, and I have been dating my boyfriend for eight months. He recently told me that he wishes we never had sex because he feels like he raped himself by doing it. He has had some bad sexual experiences in the past, but he has initiated almost all of our sexual activity. He says he has problems and a low sense of self-worth. I told him that we can take it slow, but I'm not sure he's ever going to be all right with sexual things. He said that he doesn't mind if I get sex from other people, but I want to help him understand that he's a good person and that sex isn't a bad thing. How do I do this? **My Sad Boyfriend** 

P.S. We're both fairly sure that he could be asexual. Can asexual people enjoy sex at all?

Your boyfriend doesn't need a girlfriend, MSB. What he needs is loving, concerned friends (you could be one) and a trained, competent therapist (you are not one). If having a girlfriend with sexual interests and needs traumatizes your boyfriend, then he shouldn't have a girlfriend with sexual interests and needs. If he's a miserable, game-playing jerk who likes to make other people miserable, MSB, and he's discovered that playing the victim after sex (that he enjoyed) makes his girlfriend miserable, then you shouldn't have him.

\* Gandhi did not say that. He said: "If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change."

E-mail Dan Savage: mail@savagelove.net @fakedansavage on Twitter

















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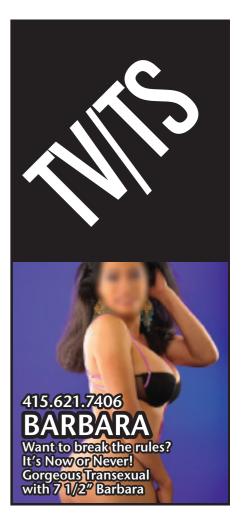
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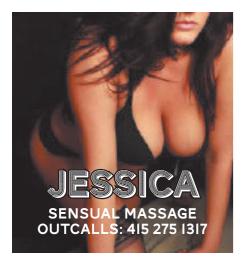
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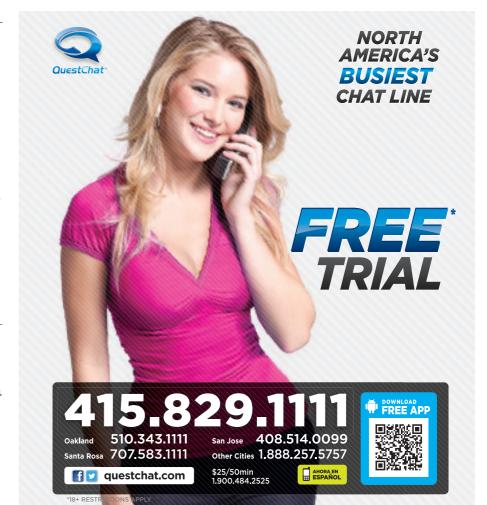
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#### **LEGAL NOTICES**

NOTICE OF SALE OF UNCLAIMED PERSONAL PROPERTY In accordance with California Civil Code Section 1988(b), personal property left by John W. Elliott, Trustee of the John Control of the West Bank, FSB on Behalf of Structured Asset Securities Corporation Reverse Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-RMI at 748 Serena Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044 will be sold at public auction Wednesday January 8, 2014 at noon, the highest bidder for cash. Property to be auctioned includes. Various sofas, various plastic bags (contents unknown), various plastic bags (contents unknown), various deher wooden table, various thairs, one refrigerator (working condition unknown), various boxes (contents unknown), various boxes (contents unknown), various boxes, one wooden book shelve, various VIR-Cassettes (working condition unknown), various documents, one metal desk.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.
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December 4, 2013. To Whom It May Concern: The name of the applicant is: HOG ISLANID OYSTER COMPANY INC. The applicant listed above is applying to The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic Deverages at: FERRY BID. OMARKETPLACE UNIT 11 THE BMBARCADERO, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-4221. Type of Licenses Applied for 47 - ON-SALL GENERAL EATING PLACE
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